

*Anything*  
IS  
**Possible**

Merrillvue 1995

# Anything IS Possible

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# Anything IS Possible



Merrillvue  
◆ 1995 ◆  
Volume 70

◆ Getting the crowd fired up, football co-captains, Ryan Parlock, '95, and Mike Mikesell, '95, give a short pep talk to the student body during the Homecoming pep rally. In the past few years it was rare to have a pep rally at MHS, but this year there were several.

◆ Merrillville High School ◆  
276 East 68th Place ◆ Merrillville, IN ◆ 46410  
Enrollment 1782



Fordeough photo

♦ While waiting for their turn in the parade lineup, Jennifer Dainton and Joe Lechner, both '96, discuss whether or not to be on the float or go by foot. Both were in the parade for their youth group.

♦ Creating a style all his own, Kevin Newton, '96, shows his spirit on opposite sex day. Newton and others not only took part in opposite sex day, but tie, P.J., class color, and purple and white days as well.





# ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

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## INTRODUCTION

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Nothing is written in stone... Right? Well, even if it was, it's not anymore. MHS has reshaped the way high school is and how it should be. If it wasn't the students facing the faculty on the court, it was Student Government making waves with all-sport rallies. If we put our minds to it... **ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.**

By sharing a dance together, Mr. Football, Kevin Fung and Homecoming Queen, Leah Frink, both '95, begin a tradition. The theme for the dance was "All I Want is You" by U2.



Matt Sicker '96 looks on in anguish as Portage topples the Pirates by an unmentionable score. Sicker and his teammates put in countless hours preparing for a great season.

Europhoto

# SAY **ANYTHING**

S P I R I T

Alive is probably one of the best words to describe MHS. From the poms and new male cheerleaders getting the crowd all riled up, to the first ever Homecoming King, somehow the student body always finds something new. And sometimes when the fans stand up and **SAY ANYTHING**, their support is felt by everyone.

"Go big Pirates," shouts Jon Schultz, '95, as he tries to get the crowd riled up at the basketball opener against Munster. Male cheerleaders added to the excitement of attending home games throughout basketball season.

Auren Lewis, '00, performs one of many football halftimes. This year the band got more creative by allowing different performers like Lewis to have solos during the time.





Proudly accepting her rose from football head coach Rick Wimmer, Carol Hjelk and son, Mark '95, enjoy Parent's Night at the Crown Point game.



Jennifer Bewley, '95, performs to the best of her ability during football halftime. Bewley, along with Nancy Pacholski, '95, and Danielle Ramirez, '95, were the captains of the squad.



◆ Beth Jusko, '96; Melissa Pogel, '97; Amy Sepczak, '96; and Jennifer Draper, '96; all patiently wait to see how the Pirates are going to fair. Just being in Delaware Stadium was an experience in itself.

Fordough photo  
◆ Giving it her all, Lula Rodriguez, '95, helps to cheer on the Pirates. Rodriguez was also a member of the senior Homecoming court along with Coryn Fryska, Erin Janecsky, Alisa Zuk, and Queen Leah Frink.



Fordough photo





Fans get all

# RILED UP

Students filling the stands help to increase school spirit at events

Sheeling out her enthusiasm, Erin Lain, '95, shows her support for the Pirates at one of their home football games. Attending games was a good way for students to socialize while showing their support for the team.

Fordeough photo

**H**ave you ever wondered what it would be like if there weren't any fans in the stands? BORING!! MHS happens to be one of the best supported schools in the community. Sure it's nice to sit in the new stadium, remodeled gym, and modern fieldhouse addition, but way before the renovation, the fans have always been the backbone for Merrillville athletics.

Athletes like to perform in front of crowds. It is always a thrill to be complimented on an achievement. Adults, as well as peers, are able to recognize those unique students with outstanding athletic abilities.

Attending local high school sporting events is an inexpensive form of entertainment for people in the area, and it gives the athletes the incentive to

strive to make their performances the ultimate best. Generally, the more support, or people who come to watch, the better the team or individual will do. It is a given, everyone likes to be a hero. It is this same feeling that is achieved when one plays exceptionally well while people are there watching. Parents are the most frequent fans supporting the Bucs, but it is nice to see the community join together to help back our Pirate athletes.

◆ LAURIE MANESS

Waiting patiently, Kevin Schaefer, '95, stands in Demaree Stadium to see if the football team can avoid a touchdown by the opposing team.

Jessica Hodges, Jessica Figueiro and Mike Guzman, all '95, cheer on the Pirates while sheltering themselves from rain. Pirate fans were willing to withstand almost anything when it came to giving their support.



## Say ANYTHING

"Knowing that people are judging my abilities, it gives me the incentive to play my best."

◆ Eric Forster, '96

After being crowned Homecoming Queen, Leah Frink, '95, pauses before walking off the field. Frink, along with Homecoming Court members, Fari Janowsky, '95, and Alisa Zisk, '95, all played softball together.



Endicott photo



Almost a tradition, students dance to the ever-popular "V.M.C.A." during the annual Homecoming dance. This year's dance was set to the theme "All I Want is You," by the band U2. Colors were black and silver.

Endicott photo  
"Will you sign me?" Fari Janowsky, left '95, as she waits to board the fire engines for the Homecoming parade. The fire trucks almost didn't make it for the parade due to an unexpected false alarm.





Homecoming catches

# THE SPIRIT

◆ Pirates beat the Vikings as Frink was named queen

**W**hat made Homecoming '94 different from those past? One thing could be the dance shared between Homecoming Queen, Leah Frink, '95, and Mr. Football, Kevin Erny, '95, at the annual dance. "I was very flattered and surprised when I heard my name, it was a very meaningful time," commented Frink.

The week nearly got off to a rough start when Student Government almost made the theme "Hakuna Matata" from Disney's *The Lion King*, at their first ever "Open House." But the final decision was for a split theme - "All I Want Is You," for the dance, and "Bash the Boat" for the week's festivities which included a parade, the queen's coronation, seven days filled with school spirit and a pep rally before the traditional Powder Puff games. All the decisions and planning that go into Homecoming were done by the whole government, not just the officers.

Whether you were dressing as the opposite sex or coming to school in your PJ's, spirit week helped to break the monotony of average school life. The juniors beat the seniors by a mere two points during the

final Powder Puff game, but the Seniors placed first in the float competition during the Homecoming parade, which eased the burn of the loss. The Freshman Class, those little younguns of the school, were victorious over the sophomores as well.

The dance, "All I want is you," proved to be quite a blast for most of the couples who attended. "The

## Say ANYTHING

"I was very flattered and surprised when I heard my name, it was a very meaningful time."

Leah Frink, '95

All in all, whether it be the spirit days, the game, or the dance, almost all of MHS was united in some way during Homecoming, which made the victory much sweeter.

◆ KIMBERLY ANDERSON

◆ Just after being named Mr. Football, Kevin Erny, '95, accepts the microphone from football head coach Rick Wimmer. Erny then had the chance to help pep up the student body for the Volpo game.



Fordough photo

Fordough photo



During the first ever all-fall sports pep rally, the entire cheerleading squad comes together for a huge pyramid. Later in basketball season, guy checkleaders added strength to the squad.



Media Secretary, Peggy Snelsker shows her spirit by not getting ready for work on P.J./Boxer shorts day. For Snelsker, Spirit Week was a break from the day-in, day-out routine.



Spirit starts

# REBUILDING

◆ Surpassing previous years, spirit overwhelms MHS

Football half-time was a time for the band to show off everything they have. From the pom-poms to the flag corps, to senior drum major Jedi Springfield leading the band in the Merrillville High School Song, spirit shined at all home games.

**S**ince when does a school actually possess so much spirit that they have to be told to sit down during a game or pep session rather than being told to stand up? The answer lies in the MHS student body. What has come over MHS to cause this overflow of spirit and enthusiasm?

Several reasons contribute to this sudden influx of school spirit. A state-ranked basketball team inevitably persuaded fan support, as well as 12 new male additions to the varsity cheerleading squad. But Pirate spirit didn't start there, it goes way back to the beginning of school and football season. "Fans standing up, cheering, That's something that sticks out

in my mind," comments Danielle Ramirez, '95.

Whatever the reason for the

## Say ANYTHING

"Fans standing up, cheering, That's something that sticks out in my mind."

◆ Danielle Ramirez, '95

Leanne Forbes, '95, plays the flute in the Pep Band at one of the home basketball games. The band was known for attracting large crowds when it played because of the upbeat numbers it performed.

◆ Showing off their new haircuts, Mike Milesell, Mike Wisniewski, Evan Hogan, all '95, along with Chris DeMure, '96 and Kevin Enry, '95 all joke around before passing time ends.



Fundough photo



Putting on the

# PRESSURE

◆ Hoops for Hope and Kiss  
the Pig spotlight Student/  
Faculty competition

## Say ANYTHING

"The Game was great! It  
was spirit at its peak."

◆ Josh Larson, '96

Gutierrez, Barbie Guy, Phil Martin, Nigel Walton, Ryan Miller, Brandon Nelson, and David Kirklen, all '96.

Guest chose the students and staff who would best represent their respective teams. One of the exciting parts of the game is that the students played against the teachers! "The game was great! It was spirit at its peak," exclaimed Josh Larson, '96.

But wait that's not all! The

students and faculty of MHS have even more spirit hidden somewhere in them. On December 3, Student Government sponsored the "Kiss the Pig" contest. For two weeks Student Government members carried around the jugs of Tom Herbert, who was last year's kiss the pig champ; Mike Krutz, CAD teacher; Rick Wimmer, head football coach; Roger Emig, choir director; and Lori Dust, the "Belle of the South" and former kiss the pig champ too. This was the students' chance for revenge on their favorite or least-liked teacher. All they had to do was drop their spare change in a bucket and hope that it amounted to more than any other. Unfortunately for Dust, the odds were stacked against her. Steve DeVillez, WMHS and PNN sponsor, had a little bit off fun with Dust by editing her prerecorded video message to make it seem as if Dust herself wanted back her once loved title. But in the end Krutz got the honors.

◆ PATRICK FARABAUGH &  
LAURIE WOITOWICZ

◆ Donie Williams, '95, quarks Rick Wimmer, football coach and P.E. teacher, to the best of his ability as the faculty lead over the students by a score of 9 to 7 in the first quarter of play.

◆ "Don't mind me.  
I'm just kissing a  
pig!" football and  
baseball coach Mike  
Krutz pucks up in  
front of the student  
body on December  
2. Krutz earned the  
most money in  
Student Govern-  
ment's annual Kiss  
the Pig contest. The  
government named  
the pig "Pig," after  
their president,  
Patrick Farabaugh,  
'95.





Fordough photo



Fordough photo

♦Sally Gradeless, math teacher and X Squad member, plays the clown of the Quest sponsored "Hoops for Hope." All the money raised went to help the needy children in the area.

♦"Where do you think you're going?" Andrea Rybell, science teacher, asks Logan Miller, '96, during the game. Not only was it a first for a student/faculty game, but also for it to be co-ed as well.

Taking the show on

# THE ROAD

◆ MHS band struts their stuff as they parade down Broadway

**W**hether it was the band's playing, poms performing, or the flags' astonishing people with their outstanding

entourage stole the show, captivating everyone no matter what their race, age, or religion. Everyone seemed to just get calm and watch in astonishment as the 100 plus band paraded their way toward Hidden Lake.

"Marching down Broadway just gave me this feeling, kind-a like we had finally arrived." "Marching down Broadway just gave me this feeling, kind-a like we had finally arrived."

Waiting for the signal, Kelly Kelman, '98, prepares to perform her routine. Once around the judge's box all the poms did their best.

## Say ANYTHING

"Marching down Broadway just gave me this feeling. Kinda like we had finally arrived."

Jodi Springman, '95

pants in the annual parade, it was MHS's turn to show them what they've got.

First came the pom-poms, then the band, and finally the flag corps. Lead by drum majors, Jodi Springman, '95, and Brian Snelson, '96, the

◆ Presiding over it all, Jerry and Margie Reinhard serve as the Grand Marshals for the event. Not only is Reinhard the director for the auditorium, but he also runs Ross Summer Music Theatre as well.

◆ PATRICK FARABAUGH





Sunglasses and all, Julia Zelendz, '95, a flag corps member, waits her turn to go down Broadway. Over 100 members of the band were at the parade, including poms and flags.



With a look of exhaustion, drum major Jedi Springman, '95, pushes on. Besides the long hike down Broadway, the band had to put up with the extreme heat as well.

Helping to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the parade, the varsity cheerleaders take the easy route as they ride down Broadway on a fire engine.

Faulkner photo



Fordough photo

Standing proud, Nancy Packowski, '95, a poms co-captain, finishes her routine. There were actually three captains, Jennifer Bewley, Packowski, and Danielle Ramirez, all '95.



Fordough photo

Andy Crane, '96; Jennifer Lainlen, Michelle Verbiel, both '95; and Kevin Newton, '96 open a game with the national anthem. All are members of the Vocal Teens.

"Give me a D!" shouts varsity cheerleader Alesha Rodriguez, '95. The cheerleaders helped to motivate the crowd with their energetic and sometimes playful cheers.



Getting the crowd

# ON THEIR FEET

◆ Eugene Vice, also known as the Pirate mascot, always tries to get spirit up. Vice not only served as the mascot, but on the cross country and track teams as well.

◆ At the end of her routine, Kristie Trock, '96, throws her arms up in pure exultation. Pom-poms performed at all home game halftimes, and all pep rallies as well.

Fordham photo



For photo

We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how 'bout you?! The start of a new school year brings another year of football, basketball, and many other spirit filled events. Who motivates the students, faculty, and countless alumni to brave wind, rain, and extreme cold to come and root for their Pirates? The cheerleaders, pom-poms, and the popular "Band Of Pirates," that's who! These students take hours out of their daily lives to practice and perfect the skills needed to perform in front of hundreds of hyper-active people.

Bobby Verbik, '97, said, "Performing at the games is great way of exciting the crowd and the team. The band is doing more interesting things this year like having Mark Lengel, '95, tap dance and giving students more solos during halftime."



For photo

◆ Poms, band, flags, and cheerleaders all help to promote school spirit

"The poms are actually a part of the band," said Summer Dicken, '95. "I feel like the poms do a good job of keeping the fans' attention focused on the field even during the timeouts."

The cheerleaders are expected spirit promoters at school functions, and this year they had some great new cheers that allowed the crowd to participate excitedly.

For all Pirate fans, attending athletic events and other activities was a great way to become involved. Being a spirit promoter meant making some noise and cheering the Bucs on to victory.

◆ SUSAN FRENCH

◆ Getting involved is one of the many things that Barb Headland, Jenny Springman, and LaToya Hughes, all '97, do of varsity basketball games. Loud cheers and dazzling routines helped to add to the amount of fan support.

## Say ANYTHING

"Performing at the games is great way of exciting the crowd and the team."

◆ Bobby Verbik, '97

Sharing a few

# MEMORIES

◆ Commencement  
introduces the latest  
alumni of MHS

**T**he feeling was spectacular. As some students gleamed with satisfaction, some shook their heads in disbelief, as their high school journeys were finally completed with the final steps across the stage. On June 7, 1995, incidentally the

last day of school as well, commencement exercises were held at the Radisson Star Plaza. The graduates, adorned in their caps

and gowns, gathered with family and friends to formally signify their graduation from high school.

Student speakers-valedictorian Angie Corea, salutatorian Leeanne Forbes, and class president Tom Bolden-were followed by the highly acclaimed Roger Crawford, who inspired the crowd by sharing his experience of over-

coming a physical handicap that he preferred to term "an inconvenience." After the speakers, the graduates were individually called to the stage and congratulated with a handshake from superintendent, Dr. Tony Lux. The conversion from childhood into "real world" adulthood was then formally symbolized by the graduates' turning of their tassels from their left side to their right. The ceremony was concluded by the celebratory purple and white balloon drop, after which the newest Merrillville alumni could be seen reveling with joyous hugs throughout the aisles, and eventually on the stage as well. Amidst the joy and victory, though, was the shadow of the knowledge that leaving the theater that night, also meant leaving many high school friends that would be going in different directions.

The sentiment of most students could be summed up by this quote from Matt Lesniak, '95, "It was unbelievable!"

◆ **IRENE HALVAS**

◆ "Our paths are like an umbrella, with the depth between being the memories that tie us together." Angie Corea, valedictorian, spoke of how the class of '95's umbrella is now opening as each member heads their separate way.

## Say ANYTHING

"It was unbelievable!"

◆ **Matt Lesniak, '95**

◆ Maybe for the last time, Christina Celakowski, '95, hugs Cvelama Kojmalski, '95 at the end of the ceremony. With the balloons being released and the seniors celebrating, most took the time to say what might have been their final goodbyes.





◆ Overcoming obstacles is what Roger Crawford spoke about when he addressed the soon-to-be alumni. Crawford, who considers his disability only an "inconvenience," was proud to share with everyone the time he carried the Olympic torch for the U.S.



◆ Accepting the jacket, Carolyn Krupa, '95, greets Dr. Tony Luv as she walks across the stage of the Radisson. Krupa was one of the few who not only earned herself an honors diploma, but also a purple and silver card for Quill and Scroll.

◆ New on MHS's alumni, Lori Medglin, '95, completes the final act of the class of '95 as she moves her tassel from the right of her cap to the left with the direction of Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz, principle.

◆ Sid Rivera, '95, and Kevin Newton, '96, ad out a slot about a tap dancing contest. Newton's character, a good ol' country boy, beat out Mark Lengel, '95, as the best tap dancer.



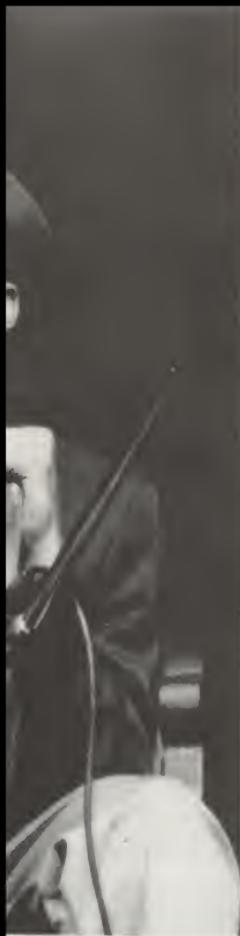
◆ Pherrin Lewis, '95, is surrounded by the cast of Revue '95, as he sings an African folk song, "It Takes a Whole Village to Raise a Child."



◆ United Colors, gets the crowd on their feet. The group danced to a mix of the year's popular dance music.

◆ Ashley Estes, '96, sings "Somewhere, Somehow" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith with Bryan Phillips, '97.





Revue takes on a

# NEW LOOK

◆ New faces add variety to the performance

**M**r. Zolfo, I have a great way to open the show." These words echoed over the heads of the anxious Revue goers as they awaited a spectacular show.

And that it was. The Revue had a great turn out and proved to be quite entertaining. It had a variety of skits and dance routines. There was cultural music performed by the Vivo's, Abby '95, and Eugene '97, original oratory by Irene Halkias, '95; along with tap dancing by Mark Lengyel, '95. Comical skits were performed by Sidney Rivera, '95. Some new-comers to the Revue cast were Lisa Taylor, Jason Reed, both '96, and the band Antistar. The band was made up of Tim Little, Dave Sierkowski, both '96, and Mike Rathburn, '97. Overall the band was a hit. The crowd definitely enjoyed the band's remake of the famous U2 song "With or Without You." Pherrin Lewis, '96, did an outstanding job with the whole Revue cast for "It Takes a Whole Village to Raise a Child." But overall, what

was the best part of the Revue '95? Well according to Lengyel, "I met a lot of people that I never knew before, and there is a lot of talent in this school." Some very unexpected events occurred during the show.

One of them was the appearance of Waldo, who would quickly run across the stage at the most unexpected moments. Waldo was

portrayed by Reed, who contributed much enthusiasm to the show, along with the other members of the cast. All in all the show was very humorous and really showed what talent is hidden at MHS. The cast worked very well together to put on an excellent performance and left everyone anticipating next year's Revue.

◆ SARAH BURT

◆ Sam Carter, '97, and Al Barber, '97, perform "I'm not Rappo!" during the Revue.

## Say ANYTHING

"I met a lot of people that I never knew before, and there is a lot of talent in this school."

◆ Mark Lengyel, '95



◆ Kimberly Pero, '97, performs a ballet routine to the song, "Evenly and the Beast." Pero is also a cheerleader during both football and basketball season.

Giving them all our

# SUPPORT

◆ Homecoming and All-Sport pep rallies boost student morale

**P**ep rallies are very rare at MHS. Especially in-school rallies. September 22 our very first pep rally of the year was held at Demaree Stadium in the tradition of Homecoming. Before the powder puff game started,

Student Government president Patrick Farabaugh spoke to hype the student body up. Mr. Football was announced before the powder puff festivities began, and Coach Rick Wimmer proudly handed over

the football to Kevin Erny, '95. Captain Mike Mikesell and

'95 also ..dier assure the positive attitudes and tremendous spirit of the student body. This Homecoming pep rally was a great motivation for the 94-95 Pirates football team and fans.

## Say ANYTHING

"I think they're great because you get out of last hour, and it motivates the school to get riled up."

◆ Jason Lockhart, '96

September 30th, and March 3rd were the MHS in-school pep rallies. During last hour the student body was dismissed to the gym. The September 30th pep rally was to hype the students up for the Andrean 49ers game vs. the Pirates and to gain spirit for winter sports. The March 3rd pep rally was to cheer the Pirates on to regionals and for spring sports. At each rally a contest between the classes was held to determine the loudest class, (more like a shouting match). Many could tell this contest was basically between the juniors and seniors, although the other underclassmen proved that they also have big lungs and loud mouths. Even though the class of '96 is much bigger than the class of '95, the seniors came out on top at both rallies.

Although our pep rallies are sometimes short and few, they are very effective on bringing out the student body's school spirit. Pirate spirit and enthusiasm is something that many schools would be proud to show.

◆ JAMIE MCKENNEY

◆ Dr. Superfans. Mocking an SNL skit, Dr. Tom Lux, shows his support for son T.J. of a community pep rally before the team went to state. Both Lux and Jerry McCory posed as the two devoted fans.

◆ Before the Pirates went to the Dome, the players' mothers paraded them by sporting basketball hats and jerseys with their sons' number on them. While Coach East's wife, Marlene East, acted as the coach of the pep rally.





◆ Dr. Daniel C. Kopoz points to the class that won the spirit point competition at the fall all-sport pep rally. Spirit point competitions are the main event of the pep rallies.



◆ Chris D'Mure, '96, class president, holds up the phrase his class had to shout out during a spirit point competition. The class that was the loudest won the points. D'Mure is still a little sticky after getting hit in the face with a pie by Tom Eddon, '95 class president.

Furbough photo

Class of '95 caught

# HAVING FUN

◆ Traditional activities give seniors the chance to share their last few days together

**J**ust because the lock-in was canceled, doesn't mean the seniors were left with nothing to do. With the breakfast, drive-around, and Baccalaureate, most seniors had a hard enough time trying to keep up with all of their activities. At the breakfast, there was an all you can eat buffet and an awards ceremony afterwards. But during the breakfast, the main concern was people being with their

for the Most Spirited.

Countless pictures were being taken amongst all the excitement about what to do afterwards. Since the seniors were given the day off, some went to the beach, while others attended the grand opening of the Deep River Waterpark. Monica Baez, '95, said, "Since it was such a nice day, we went to West Beach and hung out there." Kevin Smith, '95, who attended the opening of the waterpark, commented, "It was pretty cool except it's going to be pretty pathetic when it gets over populated due to the fact there are very few slides." At least it was fun when it had to be.

Another senior activity was the nondenominational Baccalaureate service. The featured speaker, Irene Halkias, inspired the class of '95 by comparing graduation to roller coasters and describing the anticipation of it all. The ceremony lasted for about 45 minutes with the choir closing with "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." For most people this was just a practice for the real thing—COMMENCEMENT!

◆ DEBRE ELIZONDO

## Say ANYTHING

"Since it was such a nice day, we went to West Beach and hung out there."

◆ Monica Baez, '95

friends. This was basically the last time all of the seniors could be together until commencement. Some of the awards, voted on by the seniors themselves, were given to: Tom Bolden and Irene Halkias for Most Likely to Succeed, Kevin Erny and Leah Frink for Most Popular, Patrick Farabaugh and Irene Halkias for Most Actively Involved, and Matt Lesniak and Abby Vivo

◆ "Everybody say cheese!!!" Michelle Braden, '95, takes some time out to video tape her fellow seniors on their way out of the baccalaureate service.

◆ Class Clown Ryan Parleck stands next to Mr. "Most likely to succeed" himself, Tom Bolden. Bolden presented the senior choice awards at the breakfast.

KS  
KS

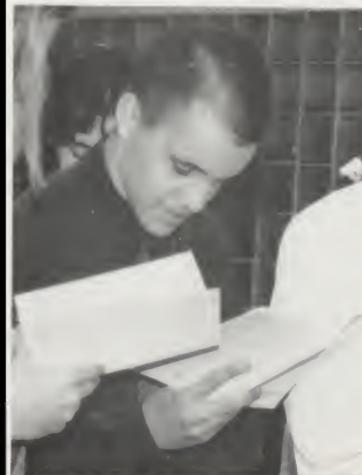




◆ Laiesha Williams, '95, got her 15 minutes of fame when she spoke to the entire class before the breakfast was over. Williams talked of all the memories, good or bad, that Merrillville has given her.



McFerren photo



◆ David Gonzales, '95, glances through his senior map. Unlike years past, the cost for the magazine, which contains all the senior walls, was tucked onto the breakfast ticket along with the meal itself.



◆ "And they're off!!!!" Seniors made their way out to the parking lot for the annual drive around. This was the only time a senior could actually "buy" his way out of a day of school.

❖ Nellie Speller, '96, and date show their feeling during one of the many slow songs at Prom. Speller was one of many who thought that the theme fit perfectly.



❖ From sponsor, Marianne Fesler signs in both Lawrence Griffith and Mary Parsons. Fesler was in for a surprise later when her son, Joe, was named Prom King.

❖ Ending a tradition, Prom court member, Chris Mavrochi, '96, and Prom Queen, Beth Juste, '96, go through the hall and outside for the Grand March.





◆ How often is it  
that you get to crown  
your own cousin  
Prom Queen?  
That's exactly what  
happened when Leah  
Frink, '95, crowned  
Beth Jusko, '96,  
her successor.



Makin' the night

# BEAUTIFUL

◆ Warm weather arrived  
just in time. What a  
"Beautiful" night it was

**H**eaven." The decoration theme fit perfectly as you walked into Prom '95 at the St. Elijah Serbian-American Hall. Beautiful white columns were adorned with glistening gold streamers that lead up to an array of feather white balloons. They had a soft appeal twenty feet above the dance floor. Out by the registration table, a decor of powdery white cotton graced the floor to resemble soft clouds, while on the walls, the mural of the sky itself seemed to relax your mind and put you in the mood for the romance, that is Prom.

After dinner, students found the time to converse for what could have been the last time as the junior class sent out its final song request to the seniors on a tearful note.

Another face to Prom was the royalty that graced the stage around 9:00. The '94 Queen, Leah Frink, '95, had the honor of crowning her own cousin, Beth Jusko, '96, her successor, while other court members, April Pratcher, Alyssa Wright, and Marisol Melendez accepted their roses. In the same manner, T.J. Lux,

◆ "They never can sell it on gently," comments Tom Herbert, Around 9:00, I.J. Lux got to crown Joe Foster, '96, the new Prom King.

'95 got to pass on his title to Joe Foster, '96, with Travis Schmidt, Marino Stath, and Chris Muvceski, all '96, standing next to him. Both Jusko and Foster had the chance to lead the Grand March which took everyone in attendance around the hall, through the parking lot, and back to the floor that had made so much magic only moments before.

"Being on Prom Court was a really neat experience. Even though I didn't win, I had a lot of fun at Prom. The next day at Great America was great. All in all, the whole weekend was great," Travis Schmidt, '96.

As the new royalty shared their first dance, "Beautiful in My Eyes," the song of the evening, seemed to have found its place within everyone as they caught themselves gazing at the two having the time of their lives. It was clear that Prom was everything it was supposed to be and more.

◆ PATRICK FARABAUGH

## Say ANYTHING

"All in all, the whole  
weekend was great!"



◆ Ann Marie Laurel, '98, helps her class remove the mittens from the hot and mitten tree as a part of the Freshman Class service project.

◆ "I think you did pretty good," commends Cheryl Gonzalez as Diane and Maria Francois, all '95, help to add up all the spirit points that they earned for their senior homecoming.





Classes become

# COLORFUL

◆ Class projects give students a chance to work together as a team

**A**re you proud to be a Pirate?" screamed the cheerleaders at the Pirate's state basketball final. The sophomore and senior classes decided to combine their class projects and show just how proud they were to wear the purple and white.

When John Miller, Vice-President of the Sophomore Class realized that other schools at semi-state had come down with their cars decorated, he decided that Merrillville needed to show more spirit. He got the other Sophomore Class officers, President Joe Moore, Secretary Jenny Johnson, and Treasurer, Jenny Poinziak, and together they decided to decorate any cars going to state. Free of charge.

"We used the money of our sophomore funds, and Santa pictures [a fund raiser]," said Moore.

"We wanted to show that Merrillville has school spirit," added Johnson.

They showed just that as students, parents, and teachers from Merrillville came to the student parking lot the Friday before the game.

"We used the extra paint to

paint peoples' faces at the game," said Johnson.

The Senior Class can always use extra money for things like Senior Breakfast, Commencement, and so on. So why not combine spirit and a fundraiser?

"We had a meeting, and we were looking for some magazines, and we got the idea,"

said senior class vice-president Irene Haldas.

The idea was to sell some "foam fingers" at the state game. Though they did not do too well with the high school students, they had other ways to do business.

"Initially, we sold them for four dollars, but they weren't really selling so we brought it down to three. We took them to the middle and elementary schools and they did real well there," explained senior class sponsor, Maggie Stallings. She added, "We sold all of them."

◆ Jennifer Johnson, '97

## Say ANYTHING

"We wanted to show that Merrillville has school spirit."

◆ Before the Pirates made the trip down to Indiana, the Sophomore Class decided to paint the windows of every car going to the dome. Sophomore Class vice-president, John Miller, paints GC BEUCS on one of the many cars.



Scaling through some of the gifts, Aarthy Iyer, '96, tries to straighten out some of the presents that each homeroom brought in as a part of the Christmas Wish List.

◆ Aarthy Iyer

◆ And the winners are, Brett Fedak, king, and Kathy Cannon, queen, both '95. This was the first year a homecoming king was crowned.



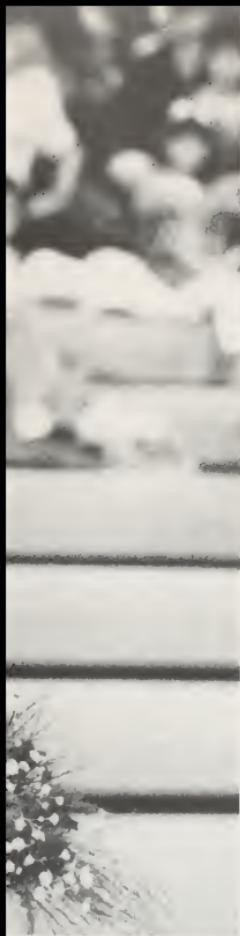
◆ Reading to the announcement, Dianna Hammer, '98, finds out that she won the honor of being the Freshman Princess. Hammer was escorted by Adam Creasbaum, '95.



◆ Mary Clay doesn't give it a second thought when she decides to join the pep band in the middle of halftime. The band played both the chicken song and the school song during their show.



◆ Showing off his trophy, Matt Lesniak, '95, stands proud as the recipient of the Hot Legs award. Because of the length of halftime, Hot Legs was held after the game.



Bethia King and Queen get

# CROWNED

◆ Having the crown placed on her head by Student Government President, Patrick Farabough, '95, Kathy Cannon, '95, grins with anxiety and surprise.

◆ Riding in the award-winning float, Brad Balcerak, '97, pops his head up as Joe Moore, '97, pushes him out onto the court during halftime.

**P**irates on a War Path" set off our annual Basketball Homecoming week this year. With all of the excitement and activities, how could our mighty Bucs not have annihilated the Portage Indians? Student spirit began to intensify starting on Monday, February 6, when Opposite Shoe Day went into effect. That was followed by four more spirit days, including Dress-Up Day, and the new and surprisingly popular Army/Camouflage Day.

Every class had a winner on Friday night during halftime of the Portage game. At this time, the long awaited Homecoming Queen/Princess pageant was held. Senior court consisted of Homecoming Queen Kathy Cannon, Erin Janovsky, Cynthia Garcia, Danielle Ramirez, and Aleisha Rodriguez. Cannon remembered her feelings, "I was very surprised. I was happy and excited all at the same time." Their male counterparts included Homecoming King Brett Fedak, T.J. Lux, Ryan Parlock, Ryan Reithel, and Sidney Rivera. Marianne Maj was crowned Junior Princess, Rebekah Jusko was Sophomore Princess, and Diana

Hammer was Freshman Princess.

Fun and festivities continued through the evening as the classes demonstrated their artistic abilities with the float contest. The Sophomores came out victorious with their mobile tank. And what about those "hot legs?" That noble honor went to Matt L es n i a k , when the crowd gave him the loudest holler. L e s n i a k claims, "I was honored to be picked. It was the first time I had ever won anything in my entire life. What a thrill!!"

Even the boys basketball team was triumphant in their conquest to scalp the Indians. Not only did our Pirates defeat the Indians, but they also put on a show that kept an excited audience standing throughout the game.

Where else could you find a princess, a state-ranked basketball team, a couple of floats, and some guy with hot legs all at the same time? ◆**CARYN KAYS**

◆ Tradition added to the annual halftime event

## Say ANYTHING

"I was very surprised. I was happy and excited all at the same time."

◆ **Kathy Cannon, '95**



# REACH OUT

◆ Different events showcase MHS's responsibility to the community

**N**ot only did spirit shine throughout the school, but in the community as well. Throughout the year different projects were sponsored by different organizations, such as Student Government and HERO, that allowed MHS to show off its social conscience a little more while giving something back to the community at the same time.

The first was the Thanksgiving food drive, co-sponsored by the National Honor Society and Student Government. Announcements were made, signs were hung and flyers

were distributed. All asked for homerooms to bring in non-perishable food to help the less fortunate around the holidays. To the astonishment of Rosellen Kozel, Student Government adviser, and Beverly Ambroziak, NHS co-sponsor, the final totals topped that of last year's 4,000 pounds. A whopping 4,500 was delivered to the St. Peter and Paul Parish.

The next big event to take place was the annual blood

drive. After serious consideration, the HERO class decided to move the date of the drive up, since the blood supplies seem to be at their lowest around November-December. Again after much publicity, students eager to get out of class lined up outside the gym with their sleeves rolled up ready to donate. And as in years past, this proved to be a successful venture as well. "I think the drive is a great idea. Who knows who you'll be helping!" states Kellie Bosenbark, '95. Bosenbark and others gave their services which helped to benefit the community.

Around Christmas time everyone thinks about the needy, and MHS was no exception. Both the annual toy drive, also sponsored by Student Government and NHS, and the hat and mitten tree, which was the Freshman Class service project, helped to give the needy of Merrillville a merry Christmas. The wish list helped 108 children and truly brought the school together. Not only homerooms adopted a child, but so did, the cafeteria staff, maintenance, the bus garage, the administration, and even FEA.

All in all, MHS proved that there is more to spirit when it comes to the community.

◆ PATRICK FARABAUGH

◆ Trying to find out the final amount, Carrie Sullivan, '95, adds up the amount of food from each homeroom. Altogether, over 4,500 pounds were collected.

◆ "Watch it, this one's pretty heavy," states Megan Moloney, '95, as she helps in the chain to get the food from the busses down into the parish pantry of St. Peter and Paul. After making sure all the food ended up in the pantry, both organizations went out to eat at a local McDonald's.



## Say ANYTHING

"I think the drive is a great idea. Who knows who you'll be helping!"

◆ Kellie Bosenbark, '95

♦ Jennifer Johnson, '97, and Paul Fisher, '93, pose with Santa Claus, really Wilfred Vow, '94 graduate, to have their holiday picture taken. Pictures with Santa were offered in the commons as a part of the Sophomore Class' community service project.



Fernbaugh photo



Fernbaugh photo



Cone photo



Brown photo

♦ Alissa Wright and Marc Helm, both '96, help to get boxes in the bus for the annual Christmas Wish List. Both Helm and Wright are active in government.

♦ "It won't hurt will it?" asks Carl Sims, '96, as he prepares to donate blood. Sims missed class to have a needle prick them and lie down until he was able to return.

♦ Helping to collect the hat and mittens tree's useful ornaments, Eric Herber, '98, gets out of class to deliver the items to the Salvation Army.

Student spirit wars

# RAGE ON

◆ Class trip has students competing for points

Dances, choir programs, the Revue, and all homecoming festivities are just a few of the many ways to earn points to win the annual spirit point competition. What's the grand prize? The winning class usually chooses to go

to the Indiana Dunes which doesn't cost them anything, but they may choose to go to Great America in which case each student would have to pay for the price of his ticket.

Throughout the school year, attendance and grades are averaged at different intervals for spirit points. A set number of points is given to the first, second, third, and fourth place classes. This is the method of distributing points for most spirit point related competitions. Homecoming week during football and basketball is a major spirit point competition. This year's basketball homecoming week consisted of oppo-

site shoe day, dress up day, army day, class colors day, and of course, purple and white day. In fact, every Friday is purple and white day. Kellee Derico, '95, commented, "I think seniors should wear more purple and white in order to go on the trip." Homeroom teachers are in charge of counting the participants and sending the count down to the office. Holidays such as Halloween and Valentine's Day are also opportunities to earn spirit points by wearing the corresponding holiday colors.

The week of February 20th to the 24th, all class officers carried around a red bucket asking for spare change to benefit Riley Children's Hospital.

At the March 3 pep rally sponsored by Student Government, each class had its own rope with an inch of rope given for every dime that was raised by that class. The sophomores raised the most money and won the spirit competition. The seniors and juniors came within two dollars of each other, and the freshmen finished in fourth place. MHS successfully raised over four hundred dollars for the hospital.

◆ JENNIFER BEWLEY

◆ "So, how's it look?" Chris DuMure, '96, gets a pie in his face from Tom Belden, '95, as a part of Student Government's Spirit Link competition.

◆ Joe Moore, '97, helped to cheer on his class during the winter all-frosh pep rally. Moore was the other class officer who got a pie right between the eyes, courtesy of Ronald Belden, class of '98 president.



Courtesy photo



## Say ANYTHING

"I think seniors should wear more purple and white so we can go on the trip."

◆ Kellee Derico, '95



Craig photo



Endomphoto

♦During Basketball Homecoming, Rob Flores, '90, carls around Eddie Evans, '90, as he takes to the court for the annual Homecoming parade. The theme, "Pirates on a Warpath," suited the Heritage game.

♦The Thanksgiving Food Drive gave the classes a chance to earn spirit points while helping the community at the same time. Cheryl Gonzalez, '93, checks in some of the food for the event sponsored by Honor Society and Student Government.



♦ The annual Homecoming dance was held in September in the Hall of Flags. Tickets were sold weeks prior at \$20 a couple.



♦ Nick Eranson, '97, and Amy Gutierrez, '97, get their picture taken during one of the many dances. Students had to wait in line for a while to get pictures taken.



Fordough photo



Fordough photo

◆ Getting ready for the dance.  
Jennifer Sanders, '98, and Maegan Krisko, '97, decorate by stringing balloons up from the floor in the hall of flags.



◆ Rob Flores, '96, and Joe Ichmer, '95, dance among the crowd of students. Many dances were held after sports events.

Dances let students get

# TOGETHER

◆ School dances offered students a place to get together.

From the Electric Slide to the Tootsie Roll, students had plenty of opportunities to do it all this year. School dances created many memories throughout the year. Whether the dance was semi-formal or casual, teenagers could be found in the Hall of Flags enjoying the evening with friends.

The school year began with a WMHS sponsored dance held after the first football game. Kelly Coughlin, '95 said, "It was a great opportunity for all of us to get together." She was one of the many people who came to the dance to socialize and start the new school year off on the right foot. Then with a change from casual to semi-formal, the annual Homecoming Dance was held that same month. Many Student Government members set up the decorations which added an extra effect to the evening. "The line to take pictures was enormous," comments Eric Randolph, '95, who spent most of his evening with his date waiting.

National Honor Society members felt that it was time for another casual, "get-together" dance in December. So plans were made to hold

another dance in the Hall of Flags after the big Merrillville-Hobart football game. "It was a place everyone could go to celebrate after the Hobart victory," adds Samantha Corrigan, '95.

Various other dances were also held throughout the year. Two other semi-formal dances include the Turnabout Dance and the Spring Dance. The Turnabout dance which was held in early December created mixed emotions. There weren't too many complaints, but a couple of them were stolen flowers and a shortage of punch. Two other dances which were held during the year were the annual Kiss the Pig Dance and the Basketball Homecoming Dance, which was an informal dance held in February.

Dances seem to create an atmosphere that is very unique. Students gather together and most of the time, have a very enjoyable evening.

◆ NANCY PACKOVSKI

## Say ANYTHING

"It was a great opportunity for all of us to get together."

◆ Kelly Coughlin, '95

When parents are

# WATCHING

◆ Some students must learn to get along with their parents at MHS

**T**hey were there at birth, they are there in times of trouble, and they are there whenever they are needed. Who are these people?

They are your parents. Many students would think that coming to school would be one of the few places they would not have to see their parents. Think again.

Jenny Draper

and Jim Vermillion are a few of the students who have a parent who work at Merrillville High School.

"I like the fact that she is there anytime I need anything," says Jenny Draper, '96.

Jim Vermillion, '95, adds, "It is not as bad as most people

would think because I don't see my dad much during school."

Draper's mother, Nancy Draper, a math teacher, said, "I like working at the same school that my daughter goes to. It allows me to make sure that she is not getting in too much trouble. Plus, I am also here whenever Jenny needs anything."

It's hard to be a teenager and be careful of everything one does, especially when parents are watching. When the student does get into trouble, more than likely before the end of the day mom or dad will know about it. It may also reflect badly on the parent.

"I don't like the fact that she knows everything that happens to me, and if I were to get into some trouble she always knows," says the younger Draper.

◆ MATT NAVARRO

◆ Nancy Draper, math teacher, shows her daughter how to complete a problem in their last period class. Jenny, '96, somehow had her mom as a teacher for class second semester.



Eisenstadt photo

◆ Stepping in for a moment, Brian Hogan, '95, takes the time to see how mom Carol is doing in the main office. Brian also has two younger sisters who attend school here.

◆ Helping their mom Nikki by delivering balloons to last hour classes, daughters Beth, '96, and Rebekah Juske, '97, take time out of their classes.



Eisenstadt photo

## Say ANYTHING

"I like the fact that she is there anytime I need anything."

◆ Jenny Draper, '96

and Jim Vermillion are a few of the students who have a parent who work at Merrillville High School.

"I like the fact that she is there anytime I need anything," says Jenny Draper, '96.

Jim Vermillion, '95, adds, "It is not as bad as most people



Even and Shelly



◆ During passing period, Bridgette Zellers, '93, stops by the guidance office to see how her mom, Debbie, is doing.

◆ "What did I do this time?" asks Even Orlegon, '93, as Shirley Orlegon takes matters into her own hands.

Even and Shelly



Foder photo

Joe and John Foder enjoy their trip to the Painted Desert in Arizona over the summer. Both Foders attend MHS and their mom, Marianne, is an art teacher here as well.

Lori Pavlopoulos, '90, stands on the deck as she looks out upon the rich blue waters surrounding Greece. Pavlopoulos visited there over the past summer.





# ANYTHING GOES

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STUDENT LIFE

Life outside of MHS often proved to be just as entertaining, if not more entertaining, than what happens within the walls of the high school. From hanging around town at local eateries to vacationing in the Bahamas, MHS students proved that when it comes to having a good time, **ANYTHING GOES**

◆ There really is a place called the Beach Motel. Cecilia Garcia, Raquel Garcia, and Abby Vivo, all '95, all went on the trip down to North Phoenix for the IASC State Convention. But on the way they decided to stop and visit the IU campus in Bloomington.



◆ Jay Marias, '95, crashed after the first day of Woodstock. Not only did Marias go, but also Jenni Randolph, Paris Reberg, Enka Yambrikas, and Nicole Holt, '95.

In Randolph photo

# Anything goes

◆ What club or sport keeps you after school the most and why?



"I'm responsible for 11 sports. Those 11 sports are all during different seasons."

-Tom Cameron,  
asst. athletic director



"Poms, because it is a lot of work and practice."

-Melissa Clark, '97



"Basketball, because we have to practice everyday for two hours, and I stay another half hour."

-Lori Modglin, '95



"Cheerleading, because the stunts take a lot of time to work on."

-Rilee Evans, '96



"Sunshine Society, because I'm in love with Ms. Rybolt and her sister."

-Jeff Hendricks, '95

◆ Conducted by:  
SARAH BURT & TRACY PARKER



◆ Leaning up with WYIN-TV, better known as channel 56, WMHS tapes a soccer game behind Demarest Stadium. Judy Adams, '95, worked on the slow motion for the game while other club members were taping it.

◆ As band members look on, Christina Petersen, '96, twirls her ribbon as part of the flag corps routine during half time of a football game at Demarest Stadium. Michelle King, English teacher, was the director this year.

# STAYING *after hours*

Clubs and activities keep students at MHS so long it makes high school seem like a second home

Working for the Student Government "Pump Up the Volume" committee, Aleisha Rodriguez, '95, the committee chairperson, helps make signs supporting the girls basketball team. The committee was designed to help generate school spirit.

Photo by Leah

It's 7 A.M., and while some kids are still in bed trying to catch a few more precious moments of sleep, there are actually a lot of students already at the high school beginning their days. Because of various activities, many students have to come to school early and stay late. High school can almost be considered a second home to them.

For instance, WMHS, the broadcasting club, meets at least twice a week before 7:00 A.M., and almost everyday after school. More commonly, students stay after school to work out, and get in shape. Adam Creasbaum, '95, comments, "I work out almost everyday until whenever, and you can really consider MHS a second home when you are only home for an hour besides the time it takes to sleep."

Clubs not only take a lot of time here at MHS, but so do some athletics. Cheerleading, for instance, practices weekly and has games once or twice a week. But in addition to that, the cheerleaders dedicate much more of their time. Missy McCory, '96, comments, "We practice weekly, but we also stay after school to decorate the locker rooms for the guys,

and we also practice before games. Sometimes we get so pressed for time that we end up stuffing fast food down our throats on the way to the high school, or right before a game."

Another group that treats MHS as a second home is the choir. Since it is sectioned off into Show Choir, Concert Choir, and VocalTeens, special practices have to be held in order to keep it separate and under control. Choir students spend some time after school and even on the weekends either learning dance steps, or lines to certain songs. They also have morning practices for weeks right around show time.

According to Jason Reed, '96, "The speech team meets a few times a week, and our actual meets are on Saturday mornings. Sometimes we have to be there as early as 5:30 A.M."

One advantage to MHS is its wide selection of groups, organizations, and athletics. But you often have to give up some of your free time in the mornings and after school if you want to be involved in more than one. How can MHS not be considered a second home to some students, especially the ones who go home purely to sleep?

◆ KIMBERLY ANDERSON



# COMING TO America

The chance to be a part of a different culture brings six students from different countries to MHS

A home away from home. That's what foreign exchange students from Spain, Germany, Italy, Japan, Denmark and France are calling Merrillville, Indiana. These teenagers chose to spend their last year of high school in another country to experience different cultures.

Elisa Perin, '95, said, "Many things are different here from Italy: the people, the habits, the lifestyle, and the school system. I am not used to waking up at 6:00 in the morning!!" Perin enjoys the school. She says "The people are nice, and they are very helpful. The school system in Italy is more academic, and not as sports orientated," she adds.

"In Germany, we don't use our car as often because in the German cities, we have a lot of public transportation," comments Philipp Lammich, '95.

How would you like to be eighteen and have to pay around one thousand dollars to be able to obtain a driver's license? This is customary for teenagers in Denmark.

Signe Nielsen, '95, plays soccer on the school team. "Soccer is very popular in Denmark like football is here," she said. "Denmark won the European championship in soccer in 1992!"

The school system is different here from that of Denmark because the students

do not change classes. They simply remain in one classroom, and the teachers rotate. The students do not have a standard schedule every day, but every week.

"We always write from the top to the bottom, and we always read from the right to the left. We also use Chinese characters," explains Erika Nikki, '95.

Marlyse Dumora, '95, comes from France. The daily schedule is different from the usual schedule American's have. Dumora said, "The schools and jobs start at 8 A.M. We stop at noon for a two hour lunch break. We go back to work or school at 2 P.M. until 5 P.M. We eat dinner between 8 and 10 P.M."

"Things in Spain are not similar to those in America. People, especially the young adults, use the bus as their means of transportation. We can drink and smoke at 16, but we can not drive until we are 18," remarks Laura Candela, '95. To Candela, Americans are more patriotic than the people in Spain. "We do not have a pledge of allegiance before games or the start of school," she adds.

The main goal of most of the exchange students is to have fun and observe the way the Americans live and their customs. To them, America is everything they could have hoped it would be and more.

◆ Not only did she come to America to learn about the culture, she came to teach math as well! Marlyse Dumora, France, helps a new student with her geometry homework long after school has let out.



◆ SHANNON BUKOVAC

# Anything goes

◆ What do you think of life at Merrillville High School?



"I like it, but it is very, very big!"  
-Elisa Perin, Italy



"I love it, except there is too much fat in the hamburgers."  
-Erika Nikki, Japan



"It's great, but the people eat all the time!"  
-Marlyse Dumora, France



"It's very modern here. It's better than I thought."  
-Laura Candela, Spain



"I don't know, huge I guess."  
-Philipp Lammich, Germany

◆ Conducted by:  
**PATRICK FARABAUGH & KIM ANDERSON**



Lundough photo



Lundough photo

◆ Getting a few more moments of sleep, Laura Candela takes a quick snooze on the bus ride to the Student Government Convention down in North Knox, Indiana. Student Government also stopped at I. U. Bloomington to get a guided tour of the campus from MHS alumna,

◆ Gathered for a quaint group photo, Marlyse Dumora, France; Laura Candela, Spain; Elisa Perin-Italy, Italy; Signe Nielsen, Denmark; and Erika Nikki, Japan; wait to return to class. Learning English proved to be the hardest task for everyone here.

# Anything goes

◆ What type of job would you least likely want to do?



"A janitor. I don't want to clean up disgusting stuff."

-Josh Christoff, '98



"Work at McDonalds. I wouldn't want my mom to visit me there."

-Marysa Wright, '98



"To be a teacher because they don't get paid enough."

-Twanna Allen, '97



"Prostitution because it is sinful."

-Summer Dicken, '95



"I cleaned the out houses for the parks department one summer. I actually did this!!!"

-Rick Wimmer

◆ Conducted by:  
CANDICE PARFET & TRACY PARFET



Lindbergh photo

◆ Being patient is one of the most desired qualities in a worker, as Nicolle Hiatt, '95, finds out. Hiatt, along with many other students, all had jobs at Scandia Mall. Gloria Jean's was just one store of the many that employed MHS students as part-time help.

◆ Polishing and packaging silver is one of the requirements of "Things Remembered." Holly Hejelius, '95, had to put in many hours around Christmas time due to the crowds of people going in and out of the store buying engraved gifts that added the personal touch.

# WORKING *for a living*

From McDonalds to the mall, to even homework, each student has some type of job to do

◆ Training is one of the many things that Sarah Felz, '96, has to do as a waitress in the Harvest Room. Felz, Mark Mazany, '97, and other MHS students work in the dining room at Towne Centre.

By Jennifer photo

To some, a job is something that students either need or wish to have. Whether it be to make some sort of payment, or for some extra spending money, everyone is in search of that valuable cash. Then there are always those students who don't want a job, but can't get out of having one. They're usually the ones who can be found in tenth period, dreading the fact that within an hour they'll be on their way to work.

There are also those students who look at school as a job, which it could be considered. Doing homework can also pose certain problems for students. After all, it's a job in itself. Some hardly have any homework, while others cannot find enough time to do even half of their homework. Tom Shultz, '95, says, "What's homework?" Maybe he is one of those people who have none at all. Then there are those

who can find the time for it between both work and school. "I stay up until 2:00 in the morning to finish it," says Corey McDermott, '95.

A few students are lucky enough to hold a job where they can do their homework while they are working. An example of this would be the HERO or COE programs. Both of these offer students the chance to earn credits while making the ever-so-wanted money. Then for those who can't afford taking off a half day of school everyday, there's always McDonalds or Burger King, and don't forget all the different jobs at Southlake Mall.

No matter what the job might be, homework is also one of students' most important jobs during the school year. Keeping up studies is just as important as lifting heavy objects.

◆ ANDY CRANE

◆ Rearranging the candles and collectibles of "Wax 'n Sticks," Megan Wajciechowski, '95, works diligently to create a display. Wajciechowski usually had to go to Sculthorpe Mall directly after school to get to work on time.

By Jennifer photo



# LOOKING snazzy

Fashion was displayed throughout the student body, from the clothes they wear to the way they act

Ever look in your closet and not know what to wear? Well, if you are going to school to fit in that's what most students do. For example, sophomore vice president, John Miller, prefers to blend in by dressing with a more formal attire. "I don't mind the people who stand out at all, in fact, they add a nice variety to our student body." Steve McFarland, '96, states, "I dress different because I don't want to feel like I need to fit into a clique. You don't have to fit in to look good."

Although everyone dresses differently, no one seems to

admit it. Take Aarthi Tejuja, '96, "I don't dress to fit in, sort of to blend in, but not really," she admits.

Everyone seems to dress to express themselves, whether it be hip hop or grunge, or even something from the past. Students are always in search of style. Cliff Hughes, '96, asked, "Isn't that a late sixties thing?" and then went on to say he dresses "loose, because it's me, and the girls like it."

Anyhow, no matter how much everyone looks the same, for the one millionth time: "It's what's on the inside that counts!"

◆ CANDICE PARKER

Judy Adams,  
'95, sorts through  
the endless amount of  
clothes on display at  
Networks. Style  
seemed to soar as  
grunge came in and  
hip hop stood strong  
as the two dominant  
looks for the year.



Biesenbach photo

◆ Trying things on often helps students figure out if they really want it or not, as Shelly Eeckecker, '95, finds out. Eeckecker not only shops at the mall, but also works in the American Eagle Outfitter located there.

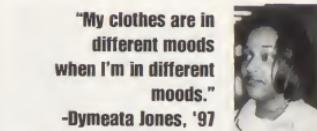


# Anything goes

◆ How do the clothes you wear affect your personality?



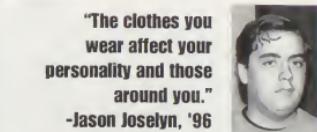
"They may give the wrong idea of your personality."  
-Erica Brown, '96



"My clothes are in different moods when I'm in different moods."  
-Dymeata Jones, '97



"It doesn't, because I like my clothes."  
-Tom Cseke, '96

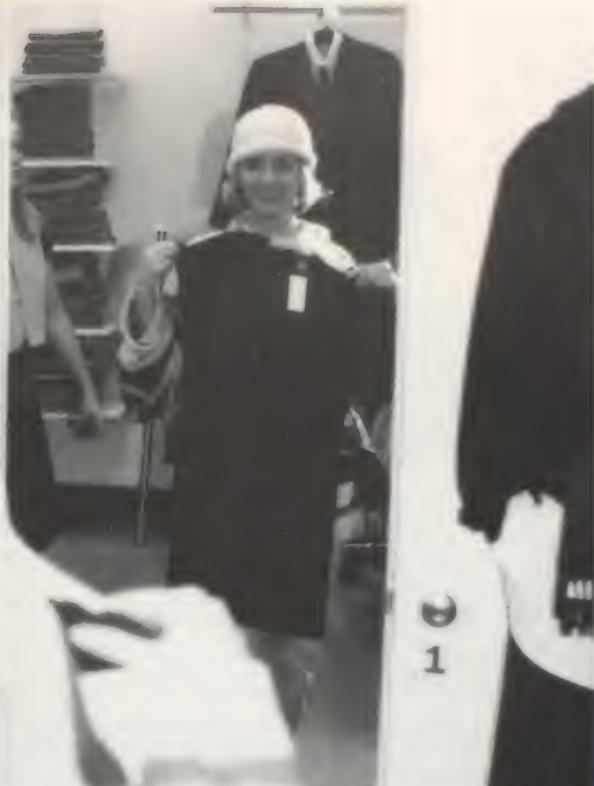


"The clothes you wear affect your personality and those around you."  
-Jason Joscelyn, '96



"I think they reflect on your inner person."  
-Joe Foster, '96

◆ Conducted by:  
**JOSH LARSON & TRACY PARKER**



Faroough photo



C. Parker photo

◆ Shopping for Christmas seems to be all that's on Jennifer Wood's mind as she looks for a gift to give her mother. Wood, '95, became a frequent visitor to Value City, the newest store by the mall.

◆ Jamie Aubin, Vanessa Bickowski, Kelly Walters, Deidre Elizondo, Angie Elllett, and Tracy Parker, all '96, shop together to find a dress for one of the many dances held throughout the year.

# Anything goes

◆ What was it like having your senior pictures taken?



"It was me sitting down and him taking the picture, and it was a waste of time."

-Junior Baldazo, '95

"I had loads and loads of fun."

-Ben Ortegon, '95



"Huh?"

-Jason Berk, '95

"To tell you the truth, it was boring. I don't like getting all dressed up."

-Kevin Schafer, '95



"He was trying to speak Spanish to me and I only understand half of what he said."

-Danielle Ramirez, '95



◆ Conducted by:

CANDICE PARKER & TRACY PARKER



◆ Smile and be sure to look pretty! Cindy Frost, '95, utilizes one of the different platforms that Giolas uses to help make a more stationary looking picture. Many students take advantage of these to help give their arms a break. After all, modeling is no easy work.

◆ Feeling like a model, Laurie Wojlowicz, poses up against one of the many props that John Giolas has to offer. Backgrounds ranged from a simple drapey to something as extravagant as hangings with different lights positioned to display the year of the graduate.

# PLAYING The model

Seniors find that going to have their pictures taken isn't much different than a modeling session



Fordough photo

◆ Getting her senior pictures taken, Irene Hollas, '95, poses for Giolas photographer, John Bir. Bir became a familiar face to MHS students, since he photographed almost every senior.

**G**aught in an episode of Models Inc.? So it may seem to the seniors who first arrive at Giolas Photographers. Each year, the upper classmen make that exciting trip to shoot their senior pictures. As they stroll down the hallway, they are met by the familiar faces of former twelfth graders. Soon, they enter the actual studio, and feel like they have been transported into another world. "I felt like a super model," Erica Walla, '95, said. John Bir, the expe-

rienced and very talented photographer for Giolas has been working there for about six years. He states, "I've been interested in, and practicing photography since I was about twelve."

"The up-to-date music is used as a common denominator, and helps put teenagers at ease," John Giolas stated. Even the decor of the studio, with the numerous props and lights, transports students into their own fantasy world.

◆ LAURIE WOJTCOWICZ

◆ Friends Forever, or that's how the saying goes as Jennifer Crowley, Desirae Flizendo, Laurie Wojtcowicz, and Irene Hollas, all '95, arrange to be photographed together. Students often brought in either a friend or objects that helped to make their pictures more personalized.



Fordough photo

# VISITING Germany

One summertime alternative found MHS students back in school, only on another continent

**P**lopped down in the middle of a foreign land, with major difficulties in communication. Aliens landing on Earth? Not exactly...

Being a foreign exchange student is an experience that can be very educational, exciting, and definitely fun. For the first time ever, Merrillville High School and the Otto-Kuhne Schule in Bonn, Germany became official partners in the German American Partnership program. Having all the arrangements made by the two teachers, Ray Hamilton and Willibert Kornigs, German teachers, students from each school applied and were chosen.

Hamilton and the 13 students finally reached Bonn, Germany on June 9, 1994. During their four week stay, many plans were also made to entertain them. They visited many neighboring cities, saw beautiful castles and churches, went on a boat trip on the Rhein River, and participated in many other ac-

tivities. After their three week stay in Bonn, it was time to say goodbye again, and continue the trip to the southern part of Germany. There they stayed in youth hostels, ate "scrumptious" hostel food, and took showers in "clean" facilities. They traveled around to tourist attractions, including the Hofbrauhaus, Neuschwanstein, and Dachau, a former concentration camp. When the four weeks were over, with some disappointed looks on people's faces, it was time to head home for Merrillville on the fourth of July.

Many students kept in touch and plan to keep in contact with each other. Great friendships grew between the two groups, and they will never be forgotten. Future visits to Germany are planned, and the same can be said for the German students wanting to come back here. But, until all of the Gapp founders are reunited, they will remain as "ONE."

◆ **MELISSA MANDLOVIC**

◆ One of the things that the students got to do in Germany was go biking along the coast. April Prothero, '96; Ryan Brown, '96; and David Greenberg, '95, all had this opportunity.



photo courtesy of Mandlovic

◆ Finally making it there, Megan Wejciechowski, '95, Melissa Mandlovic, and Kelly Webster, both '96, board a boat in Bonn, Germany. The three, along with others, were all part of the GAPP program.



# Anything goes

◆ What was Germany like, and would you ever go back?



"It was beyond awesome and I would definitely do it again."  
-Angie Stapinski, '96



"It was great and I would do it again. I got a chance to learn about the culture."  
-Randy Collins, '97



"It was like a dream come true."  
-April Pratcher, '96



"It was like an excellent movie, and of course I would do it again."  
-Melissa Manojloovic, '96



"I would do it again, and it was a different experience."  
-Ryan Brown, '96

◆ Conducted by:  
AMY GERUSA & TRACY PARKER



photo courtesy of Manjose



photo courtesy of Manjose

◆ "What's that?" ask Angie Stapinski '96, and Megan Wojciechowski '97, as they stand next to the Golden Mime in Bonn, Germany. Over the summer Merrillville sent students to Germany to be part of GAFB.

◆ What could be better than everyone staying together? Many of the participating students didn't want to leave Germany when July came. But before they left, they did get a chance to pose for one group shot.

# TAKING *The stage*

After a three year absence,  
horror hits Reinhart  
Auditorium with the Fall  
play, 'The Bad Seed'

**T**hank you for coming to Loew's, sit back and enjoy the show! Sorry, this isn't the movies. Better yet, it's a live performance. November 11th and 12th *The Bad Seed* was performed live by a cast of about 15 people.

Picture this, a murder takes place. The suspect, a mentally disturbed child named Rhoda. One minute she acts innocent and the next evil. Katie Pahl, '95, describes Rhoda as a "devil child." Cara Colon '97 unlike her character, Rhoda, is innocent.

When asked what she thought about the play Beth Hosfeld, '95, said, "It was freaky, the whole thing was so tense." Hosfeld played the role of Rhoda's mother, Christine. Acting seems to come naturally to her, but she felt

it was "really hard to play (Rhoda's mother) because of all the emotions she went through."

The cast of the play worked extremely hard and put in many long hours to make the play their absolute best. Everyday after school the cast practiced until 7 P.M. The closer to opening night the longer the practices got. Jennifer Dainton, '95, says Mark Owen is a "great director."

Owens chose a drama. For the past three years comedy has been the theme. The reason comedy had been chosen is because it seems to go over better than drama with a high school audience. After long hours of practicing though, the drama turned out to be a success.

◆TRACY PARKER

◆Deonna Price, '96, played the role of the mother of the child killed by Rhoda, Mrs. Daigle. All throughout the play, Price had to give the appearance that she was drunk.



Eug photo



◆In the final scene, after Christine killed herself, Rhoda still threatens the lives of the people around her. Cara Colon, '97, played the lead role as Rhoda.





# Anything goes

◆ What was the most interesting aspect about the play?



"Since it was my first time acting, it was a different experience."

-Roger Johnson, '96



"Being able to be on stage performing in front of people that actually support us."

-Jennifer Dainton, '95



"I got to kiss Beth Hosfeld!!"

-Matt Cooke, '96



"I got to exploit Cara's psychotic nature."

-Christine Peterson, '96



"I got to cry in front of 500 people."

-Kevin Newtom, '96

◆ Conducted by:  
ANDY CRANE & AMY GFRUSKA

◆ In an attempt to make Rhoda feel better since she didn't get the penmanship medal, Monica, played by Jennifer Dainton, '95, gave her two gifts, first a locket and second a pair of star glasses.

◆ How do you explain that your own daughter likes to murder people? That was the problem that Beth Hosfeld, '95, faced in "The Bad Seed." Hosfeld played Christine, the adopted daughter, and mother to Rhoda.

# Anything goes

◆ Where's the best place to hang out in Merrillville?



"I hang out at Stardust Bowl with my boyfriend Kevin Lohse."

-Jennifer Wood, '95



"At North Pier."  
-Tomishia Brown, '96



"The mall. There's a lot of fine dudes there."

-Yasmine Aponte, '97



"I hang out at Tom Cseke's house because he's a bad dude."

-Alan Kustric, '97



"The movies because there is nothing to do in Merrillville."

-Rachel Sheridan, '98

◆ Conducted by:  
SARAH BURT & TRACY PARKER



◆ "Did I miss something?" L.J. Lux, '95, asks Brian Hegon, Tom Eicklen, and Kristin Strawhun, all '95. Students often paid visits to local restaurants and clubs in search of something new. Many people complained all year that there is nothing to do in Merrillville when really there are many possibilities.

# HANGING around TOWN

In the endless search for entertainment, many students turn to local hangouts like Dennys and Southlake Mall

♦ Spoon Fed, Irene Hallas, '95, tries to enjoy herself as Kevin Newlon, '95, spoon feeds her a piece of pie at Eaker's Square. Almost every restaurant was a target for socializing after football games especially Dennys and the mall.

Fordough photo

Merrillville 46410, more like lame town 46410. It's Friday night and there is absolutely nothing to do. Sure, you plan on attending the football game, but what about afterwards?

We've all been there before. You're all dressed up with no place to go, literally! Many students are very bored with Merrillville; they're bored with Stardust, and the Mall (the usual hangout since seventh grade.) We always seem to end up at a friend's house or our friends at our house. Dennys is also a popular hangout after games or work. It is really the only place students can be sure that any form of teenage life will be found, if we aren't being kicked out for sitting too long without ordering anything or going to the bathroom too many times. We are too old for Celebration Sta-

tion and too young for Rookies. So where in the heck are we supposed to spend our weekend nights? Besides the very few Legion dances, there is no place for us to dance, besides Jubulations, which rumor has it was closed because of the threat of gang violence. What is that? Just because teens dress a certain way, does that make them gang recruiters?

Petitions were sent throughout the town of Merrillville and the town board, requesting a teen dance club, but they were declined.

We are on our own. There must be somewhere? What about Fuddruckers? Could that be the restaurant that will gain our business? Maybe if they don't kick us out first or label us with the infamous tag "The Generation X."

♦ JAMIE MCKENNEY

♦ Students aren't the only ones with a social life. Guidance counselor, Marjorie Fallolini and special education teacher, Kevellen Fazel enjoy lunch together at a local fast food restaurant. Unlike students, teachers are allowed to leave for lunch during their prep period.



Fordough photo



Fordough photo



# STAYING *in shape*

Getting the 'perfect shape'  
isn't always easy and can  
prove to be a challenging task  
for most of the student body

We're going to pump you up." These words by the puny cousins of Arnold Schwarzenegger became famous from *Saturday Night Live*. But to some students, working out and dieting are no joke. Getting or maintaining the "perfect shape" isn't always easy and can prove to be a task. It takes dedication, as shown by John Foster, '97, who works out four days a week for about two hours. He is already beginning to get into shape, as is Jennifer Beaty, '98. She said about working out, "It's not my whole life." The importance of staying in shape depends on the student. When asked how important it is, Travis Schmidt, '96, replied, "Real important because I'm going out for the basketball team and I want to be in shape." Staying in shape can become an obsession though. Liposuction, anorexia, bulimia, the use of steroids

and diet pills are all extremes for getting that "perfect shape." This may seem ridiculous to some, such as Leah Frink, '95, who said, "I wouldn't starve myself."

A common stereotype might be that girls work out to impress guys. However, this is completely untrue. The common belief is that girls have just as much right working out as guys do. Marianne Maj, '96, says, "Some girls might do it to impress guys, I don't." The male point of view of Mark Jones, '95, "I don't think they do it to pick up guys, they hide out in the Cybex room."

Working out and dieting can make a person feel better about himself. Not only is it a way to get into physical shape, but it also clears the mind and is a source of motivation. So the next time you hear Arnold's cousins, get off the couch, get pumped, and feel better about yourself.

◆ DEDRE ELIZONDO

Eddy Meurer,  
'96, tries his hardest  
to get fit for a special  
reason. Moreover  
spend much time  
training for his events  
in the Special  
Olympics



Grenada photo

◆ During a football workout, Mike Milesell, '95, spots Ryan Darleck, '95, as he tries to powerlift. Being in a sport was a great way for students to get a good workout.



# Anything goes

◆ How do you get your exercise after school gets out?



"Run cross country and track and work in the winter when I'm not running."

-Matthew Johnston, '98

"To stay in shape I do 200 push-ups a night and chase after girls and money."

-Dante Williams, '95



"Watching TV and getting up to go to the refrigerator is about the extent of my exercise"

-Nicole Hiatt, '95



"Nothing. I walk through the school everyday, that's exercise enough."

-Stephanie Williams, '97



"I ride my bike around the block 100 times a day."

-Chris Schuck, '98

◆ Conducted by:  
DEIDRE ELIZONDO & TRACY PARKER



Farnsworth photo



Farnsworth photo

◆ Staying in shape means watching what you eat as Raquel Garcia, '95, finds out. Apples along with other fruits were often substituted as snacks for the more health-conscious students.

◆ Members of the boys and girls track teams conditioned quite often in the fieldhouse to stay in shape for their seasons. Athletic Trainers also helped to keep athletes in shape in their off seasons.

# Anything goes

◆ How was the trip to the Magic Kingdom in Florida?



"It was weird, because in Florida there were a lot of people who spoke foreign languages."

-Kathy Bartochowski, '98



"It was fun, and since it's our senior year, it was our big trip."

-Teikesha Williams, '95



"It was a lot of fun; you knew everyone."

-Shaun Peschke, '97



"We did so much stuff. We went everywhere."

-Rhonda Jackson, '95



"I had a great time."

-Mike Coughlin, '97

◆ Conducted by:  
SARAH BURT & TRACY PARKER



photo courtesy of Puskas

◆ "Are we having fun yet?" Nancy Packoski, Summer Diden, Eric Walla, Kelly Walters, all '95, and Kristy Freck, '96, bask in the Florida sun on the band's trip to Disney World over Spring Break. Unlike the choir, they didn't get out of school early for the performance.

◆ Angela Demarco, '95 has a good 'old time as she dances with her new-found friend on the streets of the Magic Kingdom. Demarco was mixed up early in the year and completely passed over her junior year to be a senior.

# TRACING Their Steps

Strutting their stuff down the streets of the Magic Kingdom, the MHS Band shows Florida all they've got

◆ Trailing the band and poms, members of the flag corps wrap up the long endurance that headed to Florida to be a part of Disney's Magic Music Days.

Fannings photo

**B**y the time spring break finally rolled around most students were looking forward to catch up on their sleeping. But as for the Band of Pirates, they were off at eight in the morning on April 9th, already for their trip to visit Disney World. This musical group took a TriState bus for twenty-six hours, which was a grueling experience due to the cramped conditions for students. They did, however, stop at some rest stops, to let students stretch out, and use the restrooms. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, they arrived Monday in CoCo Beach, and the group stopped in for a quick look at Ron Jon's Surf Shop. Afterwards, they sat down to devour a barbecue at the

beach, and after the meal most students soaked up the sun, and played in the waves. Finally, the gang headed toward the Best Western to freshen up and settle in. That evening, they arrived at Medieval Times, where they enjoyed the atmosphere, while dining by candlelight.

As Tuesday morning rolled around the Orchestra performed on stage at the American Theatre in Epcot. The group continued onward to the Magic Kingdom where the MHS Band of Pirates, Flag Corps, and Pom-Poms performed in the Main Street Parade. All in all, the band students had a successful and exciting time in Florida. (Bus ride not included.)

◆ LAURIE

Wentowicz

◆ Barb Timmerman directs the MHS orchestra as it took to the stage in Epcot Center.



Jennings photo



Fannings photo



Jennings photo

# ACTING

## *Innocent*

A cast of over 50 help the drama department to bring the stage and hills alive with 'The Sound of Music'

**R**ecord breaking.. .and even pioneering are words that describe the spring musical "The Sound of Music." Director Mark Owens, achieved one of his own personal ambitions when he and an amazing 50 person cast, put on a high school theater production to rival that of the community theater held throughout the summer.

Auditions were held in early February for the production and practices directly followed; ranging anywhere from right after school, to 7:00, to early mornings on the weekends for set construction. Jennifer Dainton, '95, who played Maria Rainer, thought that "Acting gets easier for me the older I get. The experience is priceless." After countless practices and dress rehearsals, finally the show had its debut on April 30.

The musical brought out many firsts for MHS. One of them was such a large cast. "In the beginning, no one thought we could pull it off. After all, up to this point, all musical have had a cast of 24 or less. Now we've doubled it in about one year," commented Jenny Price, '96, student director. Price along with many others were a little unsure of the outcome

even up until a week before opening. But then it almost seemed like "everything just came together," according to Elaine Castro, '98.

Almost everyone knows the tale of the VonTrapps. After accepting their new governess (Dainton) they learn to live and sing. Her innocence rubs off even on the Captain himself, portrayed by Kevin Newton, '96, as he realizes that he and his family must abandon everything they have to seek a new life without the threat of the Nazi's. Kim Lux, '99, summed it up when she said, "It was music, morals, culture, and a little bit of history all wrapped up into one outstanding musical. I'm glad that I was part of it."

Out of the three night run, both opening night and the night after received standing ovations. And the group got to take the following Monday off as a field trip. The catch though: After performing for the middle and elementary schools, all the sets had to be torn apart and put away. Tough break. Who would want to spend the day in the auditorium with 50 of their friends?

◆ PATRICK FARABAUGH

◆ The whole family singing together: Kevin Newton, and Lisa Taylor both, '96, Cara Colon, '97, Jennifer Dainton, '95, and the rest of the family perform of the festival in the second act.



# Anything goes

◆ What's the funniest thing you did between scenes at practice?



"It was dark in the back of the set and I was sitting down and someone kicked my head."

-Jessica Anderson, '97



"We were still in character on breaks."

-Stephanie Hogan, '98



"The cardboard statue fell over and made the fountain leak."

-Abby Vivo, '95



"I tripped on a stone bench."

-Jay Cermak, '98



"I ripped a curtain."

-Mandy Sopko, '97



◆ There's nothing like being kissed by the one you love. Cara Colon, '97, jumps into the air after being kissed by Ralph played by Matt Cooke, '96.

◆ Jennifer Dainton's voice echos through the hills, or at least the auditorium, on opening night. Dainton had the leading role.

◆ Conducted by:  
DEIDRE ELIZONDO & PATRICK FARABAUGH

# Anything goes

◆ How important is your car to you and why?

"Very, because without it I can't pick up chicks!"

-Jon Shultz, '95



"It is important, because it gets me everywhere!"

-Angie Camacho, '96



"Very important, because without it I would not be able to work."

-Debbie Zellers



"I don't have to depend on anyone to get me places."

Mike Churilla, '95



"Yeah, it helps me get to places."

Brett Fedak, '95.



◆ Conducted by:  
SARAH BURT & TRACY PARKER



◆ Rows and rows of cars line the student parking lots, all with little green parking tags for the rearview mirror. If caught without it, orange stickers were placed on the windshield of the offender's car.

◆ Evidently leaving school, Missy Stelter searches her trunk for various things. Stelter and other drivers were often in a hurry to avoid the awful traffic jams right around 3:00 so they wouldn't get stuck behind the bus.

# DRIVING TO MHS

Show off the car you drive  
could be something to look  
forward to or even feel  
embarrassed by

◆ Facing the consequences for being late to school, Sam and Emily Barnet, '95 and '97, both get stuck parking in the back of the student parking lot.

**A**sk any student at Merrillville High School what their most prized possession is and what will they tell you? Will it be their money, their brain, or their car? Most of the students agree it would have to be their ride, their wheels, what else but their car!

For most students it's their only transportation, a better alternative than riding the cheese wagon to school. Yet, for other students it is their baby, their hobby, cars are what they live for.

A majority of the students at MHS own reasonable cars since high prices these days are a little hard to get around, but many still have a certain pride for them.

Joe Barker, '96, whose car is a 1987 Ford Escort commented, "It's the only thing I could afford and it sucks, but it's got a sweet set of headlights."

Many students who do not have the advantage of owning a newer car, find other things to like about them.

"I like the windshield wipers because they work good,"

said Gary VanVolkenburg, '95, who owns a 1989 Honda Accord.

Rich Stazinski, '95, the proud owner of a 1980 Pontiac Bonneville commented, "I like the painted on bumper, and my car can run over rocks."

Other students at MHS who have had accidents, hold dear memories of their car. These students are forced to seek out a ride to school everyday or suffer the alternative . . . riding the bus to school.

Maryann Vale, '95, who was in a tragic accident involving the death of her car, stated, "I'm so proud of the way my car accentuates the junkyard."

Whether it's a new '94 Camaro or a '65 Mustang, many students get to ride to school in style.

Jenny Gabriel, '96, described her 1994 Mustang, "It's red, it's fast, and it's mine."

Old or new, red or blue, the students at MHS find various ways of getting around.

◆ AMANDA RICHARDSON



# SINGING *down under*

Clear water, clean air and the sweet smell of the tropical flowers on the island: The MHS choir in the Bahamas!!

Palm trees, warm white sand, and cold clear water. Definitely not Merrillville. The choir visited a paradise called the Bahamas over spring break. They left on Wednesday, April 5 for the five day vacation.

They then spent the next twenty-seven hours on a bus watching movies ranging from *Speed* to *The Lion King*. Every couple of hours they stopped at the local fast food joints to grab a bite to eat and stretch. After that long bus ride and about a million truck stops, the choir finally arrived at Port Canaveral. But before boarding *The Big Red Boat* the group stopped at Ron Jon's Surf Shop to do some last minute beach bargaining. Once on board the boat, they joined with the other choirs and bands from across the U.S. to sing "Anchors Away."

The Captain's Cocktail Party was a formal dinner at which the visitors could meet the captain. After dinner many people relaxed by taking a quiet walk around the top deck or dancing to the hot reggae bands.

That night the choirs performed and MHS received second place. On Saturday, they had breakfast on the boat by the pool and then ventured out to the beautiful island of Port Lucia. Parasailing and swimming with the dolphins were the two most popular excursions for students to do. Later at dinner each said their final goodbyes to a few of their favorite waiters and finished the night with a last rush of the cool tropical breeze.

On April 10 the choir packed up, went through Customs and rushed to Universal Studios to perform for the last time on the trip. Then it was back to the bus for another 27 hour ride, truckstops and movies were what kept the anxious students awake the whole ride home, not to mention the memories and uncomfortable seats. Once back in Indiana, they realized how beautiful the tropical weather was, and they slowly stepped off the bus into the cold and rain. Suddenly they realized that it was definitely not the Bahamas.

◆ Sarah Burt &  
Jamie McKenney

◆ Feeling right at home, Kelly Thorn, '96, takes a few minutes to join in with the natives right after getting off the boat in the Bahamas. Most choir members couldn't get over how clear the water was when compared to the Florida beaches.



# Anything goes

◆ What was the most exciting thing about the cruise?



Forsburgh photo



Forsburgh photo

◆ "I've got nothing," ...except a great voice. Sarah Frink, '97, performs on the Big Red Event with the rest of the Girls Show Choir. They received a good rating from the judges.

◆ The straw shops appealed to Megan Dixon, '96, as she tried to haggle down the prices with the shopkeeper. There were people there trying to sell everything from braids, to books, to t-shirts.

"The parties on the boat."

Harriette Kelly, '96.



"I enjoyed parasailing the most."

Emily Barnett, '97.



"Parasailing and hanging out with my friends."

Jason Dzunda, '96.



"Being on the cruise was the best part."

Lucinda Paz, '95.



"The food!"

Larry Murphy, '95.



◆ Conducted by:  
TRACY PARKER & DEIDRE ELIZONDO

# PROVEN POSSIBLE



♦ It was a match made in tabloid heaven. The child of one of the two biggest stars in rock history married the other biggest star in rock history.

Lisa Marie Presley, Elvis's only child, got hitched to the reclusive Michael Jackson. After weeks of dodging photographers outside Jackson's Trump Tower apartment in New York City, the couple made a very public coming out. They opened the MTV Music Video Awards ceremony, broadcast live from the Radio City Music Hall.

After an announcer intoned, "Please welcome Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jackson," the newlyweds strolled out onto stage. The couple held hands during their brief appearance and exchanged a long kiss as the audience cheered wildly.

"I'm very happy to be here," Jackson said. "And just think, nobody thought this would last."



♦ It was a rainy month in Georgia, where two weeks of record flooding in July killed 31 people, destroyed hundreds of bridges and roads, and even uprooted caskets from cemeteries.

Tropical storm Alberto dumped nearly two feet of rain, flooding the Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers in the central and southwestern sections of the state.

♦ Tens of thousands of firefighters fought a summer-long battle against scores of fires that burned more than three million acres of woodlands across the parched Western states.

Residents of mountain homes near Boise were routed by a single fire that consumed 27,000 acres.



## No Price is Right

### BARKER CHARGED WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT BY ONE OF HIS ILLUSTRIOUS BEAUTIES.

Bob Barker and his famous "beauties" were in the spotlight once more, but this time it was one "beauty" in particular. Dian Parkinson, who was a model on *The Price is Right* for 18 years, filed charges of sexual harassment against host, Bob Barker. "I never thought it would happen to me. I'm 70 years-old. The sexual revolution in my life came when I was out of ammunition," commented Barker.

Without any doubt, there was a physical relationship between the two coworkers, but there was some speculation about Parkinson getting involved for the sake of her job. The only reason Parkinson had sex with Barker was because there was the scare of losing a yearly salary of \$120,000. Barker commented on that note also, "She is not telling the truth. I think it's an injustice to the women who really are suffering when a woman files a cynical lawsuit for personal gain."

Although Parkinson would not comment on the accusation, some of the other coworkers were aware of their fling. "If anyone was doing the harassing on that set, it was Dian," commented Janice Pennington, a fellow *Price* model.



♦In July the Merrillville High School Student Government sent four of its executive officers to Ball State University for the Student Leadership Workshops, better known as SLL. Patrick Farbaugh, '95, along with Judy Jennings, Marc Holm, both '96, and Jenny Pozniak, '97 all were in attendance. Here Pozniak, Holm, and Jennings all study a map of the campus.



♦It rained. Thousands crashed the gates. People with tickets couldn't get in or had to wait for hours. Portable toilets overflowed. Food occasionally ran short. Drugs were everywhere.

Primeros set up distant parking lots and shuttle buses for the 200,000 people who paid \$135 each for tickets — advance sale only. But about 350,000 people showed up. Many ticket holders couldn't find a parking space, and some walked up to 12 miles to get to the concert. A few gave up and went home.

On stage, Bob Dylan, who did not play in 1969, sang "Just Like a Woman." Joe Cocker wailed "With a Little Help from My Friends," just like 25 years ago. Melissa Etheridge impersonated Janis Joplin, a late veteran of Woodstock I, in "Piece of My Heart."

♦With the start of the '94-'95 school year, the incoming freshmen were not the only ones who experienced change. The Merrillville Community School Corporation also experienced a change. In a new superintendent, Dr. Anthony Lux became the new superintendent after Dr. Robert Schenck retired. Dr. Lux has many plans for the students of Merrillville.

Two future goals Dr. Lux has are to focus on student learning so that students may achieve more, and to see students enjoy going to school.

Dr. Lux has two children in the Merrillville School Corporation, and he uses that advantage to help him look at the students' viewpoint.

Merrillville schools began 1994 with a fresh start and also with many new ideas and goals that Lux has already initiated.



## Who Came to WOODSTOCK

**Joe Cocker  
Aerosmith**

**Peter Gabriel  
the cranberries  
Primus**

**Joe MacDonald  
Gil Scott-Heron  
U2**

**Pearl Jam  
Guns N' Roses  
R.E.M.  
Bob Dylan**

**Collective Soul  
Candlebox  
Rollins Band  
Green Day**

**Salt 'N' Pepa  
Cypress Hill  
Metallica**

**Red Hot Chili Peppers  
The Band  
Crosby, Stills, & Nash**

**Blind Melon  
Spin Doctors  
Hassan Hakmoun  
Jackyl**

**Del Amitri  
Sheryl Crow  
Nine Inch Nails**

**Porno for Pyros  
Blues Traveler  
Violent Femmes  
Deee-Lite**

**Melissa Etheridge  
Sisters of Glory  
Arrested Development**

**Neville Brothers**

# PROVEN POSSIBLE

## TV of THE TIMES

**Frasier**  
**Seinfeld**  
**Roseanne**  
**Home Improvement**  
**Me and the Boys**  
**All-American Girl**  
**Something Wilder**  
**Friends**  
**Hanging with Mr.**  
**Cooper**  
**ER**  
**Party of Five**  
**Daddy's Girls**  
**Grace Under Fire**  
**Beverly Hills 90210**  
**Melrose Place**  
**Models Inc**  
**Mad About You**  
**Saved by the Bell**  
**Full House**  
**My So-called Life**  
**Married with Children**  
**The Simpsons**  
**On Our Own**  
**Chicago Hope**  
**Blossom**  
**Martin**  
**NYPD Blue**  
**Northern Exposure**  
**Bay Watch**  
**Beevis and Butthead**

◆ Civil war continued to rock Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1994, despite the efforts of a United Nations peacekeeping force. The war was notorious for "ethnic cleansing"—the successful Serbian campaign to drive Muslims from northern and eastern Bosnia. Bosnian Serbs had to contend with NATO air strikes. Also, United Nations sanctions and diplomacy appeared to put some distance between the Bosnian Serbs, who rejected an international peace plan and their allies in Serbian Yugoslavia. In October, in recognition of increased cooperation from Belgrade, the UN lifted some of the sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia. But US Defense Secretary William Perry asserted that the Bosnian Serbs were still getting war supplies from their fellow across the border.

◆ A deaf woman from Alabama became the first contestant with a disability to win the Miss America Pageant. The 6'8" Miss America was 21-year-old Heather Whitestone. Her slogan in the competition was "Youth Motivation: Anything is Possible." She was proof enough, having lost most of her hearing after a reaction to a shot when she was 18 months-old. Whitestone became Miss America 1995 in part through her talent routine, a two-and-a-half minute ballet performed to music that she couldn't hear. Instead, she counted the beats in her head and synchronized her dance moves to reflect changes in pitch. At a news conference after her victory she stated, "Look at us, we're doing just fine."



◆ Brazil's unsung back line, hobbled by injuries, came through in the World Cup when offensive stars Romario and Bebeto couldn't put the ball in the net. "Defense won this game," Aldair, one of the new heroes, said after the match. Brazil's offense got all the attention beforehand, but its defense wound up stopping Italy.



◆ Scott Amelure, a homosexual, felt that he needed to confess his feelings for the homophobe, Jonathon Schmitz after secretly admiring him for some time. He did this live on the Jenny Jones Show and caught Schmitz by surprise.

After the show, Amelure left Schmitz a sexually provocative note, and Schmitz reacted violently. He shot Amelure for expressing his feelings publicly. All this because of one man's need to confess his love in front of a live audience.

◆ The civil war in Rwanda began with a plane crash that killed the president. A rebel group comprised mainly of Tutsis had been trying to unseat the president, who was Hutsu.

The violence was awful, but it was nothing new. The Hutsus slaughtered thousands of Tutsis in uprisings in 1959 and early 1960s.



## Cinema Savior

### Rocky Horror Picture Show SPONSORS ITS SECOND BENEFIT FOR RYAN WHITE FOUNDATION.

**O**n Saturday, October 29, 1994 the Tiny Fools, a group of local actors, put on two performances of the Rocky Horror Picture Show at Crossroads Cinema in Merrillville. Why? To raise money for the Ryan White Foundation, an Indianapolis based charity, through an AIDS benefit. It is an annual benefit that has been running for two years. The cast of 20 people, varying in age from 16-23, raised over \$2000. Most of the money came from the 750 tickets sold but was helped with the sale of survival kits, programs, t-shirts, and buttons. The cast also sold advertisements for the program and raffled off donated prizes.

The cast, dressed up in costumes similar to those of the characters on screen, perform all the dialogue, songs and actions along with the characters on the screen every Saturday at midnight. For all of the return fans and even those who have never seen the show before, the annual AIDS benefit is greatly anticipated.

The show was a success in the eyes of the cast and of the several MHS students who went to the shows. One Merrillville student, Susan Frenchik, '95, enjoyed the show and its purpose so much that she auditioned for the cast and is now a Tiny Fool.

◆ If the United States truly had a health care crisis in 1994-95 you couldn't have proved it by Congress. Despite the exhortations of President Clinton and the First Lady, the year ended without significant health insurance reform.

In 1993 the president appointed his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to head a health care task force. After extensive hearings and much research, the group produced a proposal that became famous — or infamous — for its complexity.

Meanwhile, sentiment for change seemed to be limited to the minority of Americans who lacked health insurance or feared losing it. In the absence of a public outcry, there was insufficient support in Congress for the Clinton bill, which called for universal coverage. But the

President had promised to veto anything less.

Mrs. Clinton took some of the blame for the failure. She didn't realize that the complexity of the plan would turn people off.



# PROVEN POSSIBLE

♦ In the constant battle over what shows kids will watch the *Power Rangers* came out on top over *Barney* and *The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. The show features kung-fu fighting and rebels. The six heroes hit up Fox television and the eyes of many youngsters across the country all year long.

♦ For the first time ever, the high school and junior high school pom-pom squads of Indiana have been recognized as an active sport through the formation of the Indiana High School Dance Team Association (IHSDTA). Regional competition was held at Merrillville. On January 21, after many hours of practice, the squad placed 5th in the pom division and 3rd in the dance division. They then advanced to the state competition on January 28, where they placed 10th in pom and 9th in dance.



5

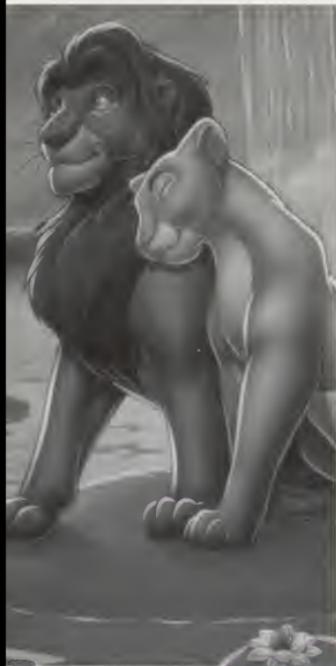


♦ Roaring into theaters everywhere in summer of '94, Disney's 31st animated feature, *The Lion King*, stole the hearts of young America, along with their pocketbooks. Taking in the lion's share of the profits, Simba and crew had already grossed over \$44 million after only being out for two weeks.

The story was simple. Simba was threatened when his father was killed by a stampede of wildebeests. I tend to believe that he was the cause of Simba's death by his Uncle Scar, the little lion cub ran off in hopes of never being seen again. In the meantime, his journey lead him smack-dab in the middle of a rainforest where he met, and was befriended by, a wise-cracking meerkat, Timon, and a warthog whose eyes are bigger than his stomach, Pumbaa.

Finally he decided to return to the Pridelands and seek out his true heritage.

Disney animators spent months in Africa and at zoos to get the feel for what they would be making. After studying every inch of almost every animal imaginable, the outcome was well worth the time... "A lion, and no pun intended."



## SOS Flight 4184

### CRASH IN NORTHWESTERN INDIANA KILLS 68 PEOPLE AND BONDS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Newton County, Indiana experienced tragedy on October 31, 1994. Officials believe that the crash of American Eagle Flight 4184 was the worst in the state's history. All of the 68 passengers and crew on board died when the plane hit the ground. One victim, Elizabeth Guba, a 37 year-old resident of Indianapolis, was a graduate of Merrillville High School in 1975. She boarded the plane in Indianapolis, heading for Chicago, due to her job regarding clinical pharmacy.

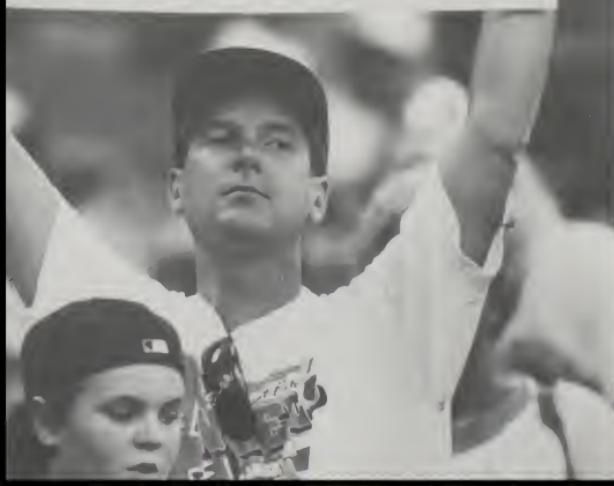
Numerous efforts were made by rescue workers from all over Northwest Indiana to help separate the ruins and collect the remains of the casualties.

On Saturday, November 11, 1994, a memorial service was held for the victims in the main gym at the high school. Approximately 300 people assembled for the service. It was a simple, gracious ceremony which lasted about 30 minutes.

Reverend David H. Gosnell of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church opened the service by saying, "We gather as strangers bonded together by tragedy...that has left us speechless and heartbroken."



# GREED KILLS STRIKE



♦ March 25th was an exciting, yet disappointing day for the Merrillsville Pirate basketball team and fans. Although it was a controversial one point loss for the Pucs in the game against Ben Davis, co-captain, T.J. Lux, '95 was named recipient of the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award. Each year one senior player is chosen by the IHSAA based on positive mental attitude, scholarship, leadership, and athletic ability. Lux stated for the Merrillsville Herald, "It's a tremendous honor to win. Some great people have won this award, and I'm just honored to be a part of that list now." T.J. attributes a great deal of his success to his parents. He admires many people, but he feels that being able to pattern his life after his father's would be a life of success.

♦ On the 34th day of the major league players strike, the team owners canceled the rest of the 1994 season, including the playoffs and the World Series.

"This is a sad day," said acting commissioner Bud Selig in a fax distributed to the news media.

He got no argument. Nel from Long Beach of the San Diego Padres, who lost his chance to bat .400, Nel from Matt Williams of the San Francisco Giants, who lost his shot at Roger Maris' home run record,

And certainly not from fans, who suffered through a fall without a World Series for the first time since 1904.

The season floundered on the owners' insistence on capping player salaries. The players refusing to go along, went on strike, and in a little more than a month the season was history.

## Head of THE CLASS

Jamie Aubin  
Erin Bacich  
Jaime Bartolucci  
Chennetta Blacknell

Tom Bolden  
Angela Corea  
Robert Daumer  
Albert Davila  
Angela Demaree  
Lisa Dimitroff  
Jennifer Duplaga  
Deidre Elizondo  
Leeanne Forbes

Alex Galic  
Cynthia Garcia  
Cheryl Gonzalez  
Christine Hodgetts

Brian Hogan  
Beth Hostfeld  
Irene Halkias  
Caryn Krysa  
Matt Lesniak

T.J. Lux  
Richard Lyons  
Lori Modglin  
Megan Moloney  
Mandy Olejnik  
Kirstin Olson  
Nancy Packowski

Jon Rowe  
Kristen Sommers  
Jennifer Spitz  
Kristin Strawhun  
Carrie Sullivan  
Tanjree Turner  
Michelle Verbik  
Michael Wisniewski  
Julia Zolondz



♦ Nothing may ever explain for sure why the Maryland trucker, Frank Corder, stole a small plane near Baltimore and crashed it into the White House lawn shortly before 2 a.m. on September 15, 1994.

Neither President Clinton nor his wife and daughter were home when Corder, flying at treetop level, smashed into a magnolia tree on the South Lawn.

# PROVEN POSSIBLE



♦David and Susan Smith arrive at the Union County Sheriff's office in Union, South Carolina October 27, 1994. The Smith's children were said to have been kidnapped Tuesday, October 25, after a carjacker took Mrs. Smith's car at gunpoint and told her to get out, but would not allow her to remove her two children, Alexander, fourteen months-old, and Michael, three years.

She told the public her story, and they left for her.

"I don't think any parent could leave their children more than I do, and I would never even think about doing anything that would harm them," claimed Smith.

A composite sketch was made by police and the hunt began, only for Smith to break down days later and admit to authorities that she was the person guilty of killing the two boys.

Smith left her children in the car, as it was slowly immersed with the water.

The state of South Carolina may seek the death penalty when she stands trial.



♦On April 12, 1995 one more boys basketball star signed with a Division I school. Joe Stavitzke, '95, has plans to attend Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. By settling the three point record in the final four, Stavitzke's dream of earning a scholarship came true.

♦Ecological father, Clark Kirchner, carries his son, Baby Richard, into a waiting van outside the Doe's Schaumburg house on Sunday, April 30, 1995. In January, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that custody of Richard should be given to Kirchner, rather than the boy's adoptive parents, known in court proceedings as John and Jane Doe.

# Terror in Oklahoma

## AMERICAN'S CAUGHT OFF-GUARD WHEN OKLAHOMA'S FEDERAL BUILDING IS BOMBED.

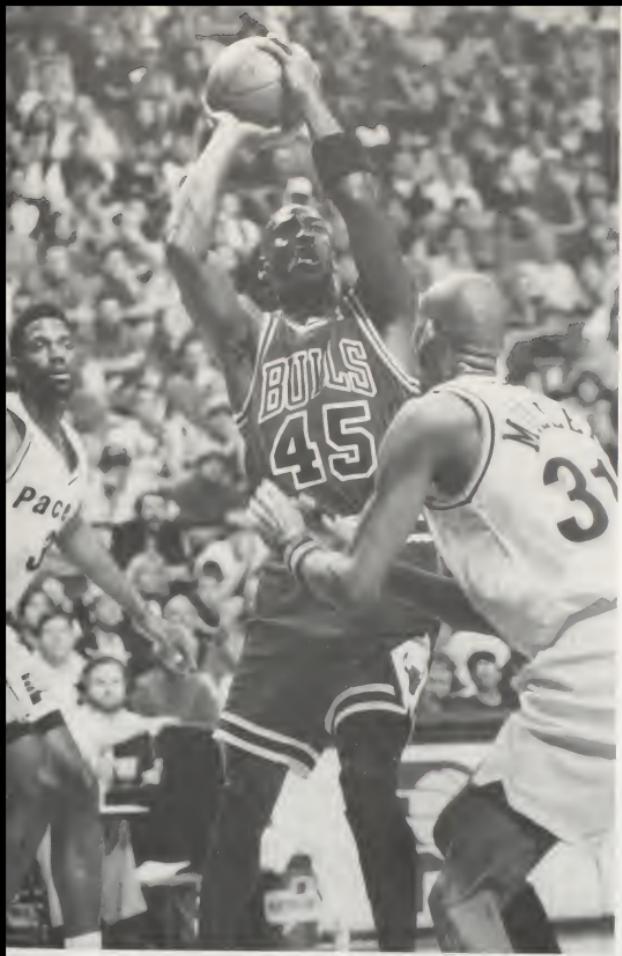
It was a fairy tale gone bad. Who would have ever believed that a terrorist would strike right at the heart of America? Who would have ever believed that one truck could carry over a half-ton of explosives? Well, if you were standing anywhere near the federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on the afternoon of April 19, you'd believe it. In what has been called "the worst terrorist attack ever on US soil," a mere three people could be held responsible for the deaths of hundreds. The most tragic was the sight of the firefighter, who after giving it his everything, was seen carrying out a small child bleeding from the head, who had been killed by the blast.

"We will find the people who did this," rang out President Clinton's voice to an America with no place to turn. After all, if something like this could happen in the heartland, where else is at risk?

Only days after the bombing, a service was held for all the victims. Broadcast nationwide, it offered comfort to those who needed it most: the families involved.

Out of the three suspects, two were arrested, the most widely known became Timothy McVeigh, who now must await the trial of his life for all the lives he took.





◆ Bruce Woods, English teacher and Danielle Ramirez, 35, organized a convocation for Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican Independence Day. Many Hispanic students took part in this convocation by either dancing, singing, or speaking.

The highlight was when the East Chicago Mariachi band performed for the crowd.



◆ Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan shoots over Indiana Pacers guard Reggie Miller during the third quarter in Indianapolis Sunday, March 19, 1995. The Pacers defeated the Bulls in overtime 103-96. A huge controversy was stirred up by Jordan's return, especially in his first game. Many people thought that MJ didn't even know how to put his shorts on when he came onto the court with the word champion stitched onto the back of his shorts. Come to find out, it was just a mistake made by the manufacturer.

That wasn't all the controversy Jordan aroused though. Later when he tried to change his number back to 23, the NBA slapped Michael with a huge fine. He continued to play with #23 in the play-offs, until their season ended against the Magic.

◆ On January 26, 1995 the whole student body of Merrillville High School was motivated. This motivational speaker has spoken at over fifteen hundred schools across North America. When you think of a speaker you think of boring, but Mark "Shake-n-bake" Scharenbruch was not even close to being that. From St. Cloud, Minnesota, Scharenbruch came to give a speech on motivation and life. He started out by saying, "I am not here to motivate you, if you can't motivate yourself no one else can." Although his speech was about motivation, it had a touch of humor added in on the side. By the end he had talked about life from the beginning to end. It was a talk meant to motivate Merrillville, but it also made MHS laugh and think about life all at the same time.



## People's Most INTRIGUING

- Gerry Adams
- Andre Agassi
- Tim Allen
- Aldrich Ames
- Nadja Auermann
- Jim Carrey
- Vinton Cerf
- Bill Clinton
- Princess Diana
- Shannon Faulkner
- Michael Fay
- Newt Gingrich
- Tonya Harding
- Whitney Houston
- Michael Jordan
- Jeffrey Katzenberg
- Ricki Lake
- Heather Locklear
- Power Rangers
- Pope John Paul II
- Liz Phair
- James Redfield
- O.J. Simpson
- John Travolta
- Christine Todd Whitman
- Vince Gill
- Meat Loaf
- Snoop Doggy Dogg
- Michael Zaslow
- Anna Paquin
- Lance Ito

# PROVEN POSSIBLE

◆ A string of Pacific storms led to the deaths of at least 11 people and caused more than \$300 million in flood damage across the state of California in January 1995.



## Sounds of THE TIMES

Veruca Salt  
Plastikman  
Digable Planets

Pearl Jam  
R.E.M.  
Testament  
Brutal Truth  
Craig Mack  
Redman

Grid  
Bush  
Portishead  
Liz Phair  
Slayer

Keith Murray

Roots  
Brand Nubial  
Air Liquide  
Catherine  
Dead Can Dance

Celine Dion

N-Tyne  
Primus  
Green Day  
The Offspring  
Snoop Doggy Dog

Nine Inch Nails

U2

Soundgarden

Stone Temple Pilots

Aerosmith

John Mellencamp

Easy E

◆ A woman subway passenger with an oxygen mask is rushed into St. Luke Hospital in Tokyo Monday morning, March 20, 1995. Five people died and more than 550 were hospitalized after they fell ill from toxic fumes filled in the metropolitan subway systems during busy morning rush hours.

Following on the heels of the Kobe Earthquake, cult leader, Shoko Asahara, lead Japan into yet another devastation tragedy. After what could have only been a painstakingly complex plan devised by a warped group, nerve gas was pumped into the subways in Tokyo. The nerve gas, sarin, was put in five of the subway cars.

This act was brought on by the Aum Shinrikyo cult, lead by Asahara. The cult actually means Aum Supreme Truth.

◆ Actor Tom Hanks shows off his award for "Favorite Actor in a Dramatic Motion Picture," for his work in "Forrest Gump" during the 21st annual People's Choice Awards. Later of the Oscars, Hanks also received "Best Actor," for the second year in a row, making him the second person to receive this in the history of the awards. The words, "life is like a box of chocolates" and "stupid is as stupid does," will be remembered by generation after generation. *Forrest Gump* now holds the record for the non-science-fiction film which grossed the highest amount of money in history. Steve Tisch, producer of *Gump*, commented on Hanks and his role in the movie, "I've been involved in *Gump* for nine years, and I can't now think of any other actor who should've played *Forrest Gump* other than Tom.



# In 5, 4, 3, 2, 1....

## PIRATE NEWS NETWORK GOES PUBLIC ACCESS WITH HALF-HOUR NEWS BROADCAST

**I**t's 5:30 in the afternoon. You're just sitting down after a long week's worth of work. What channel is your TV on? If it was tuned in to Cable Access 16, you'd be just in time to catch another edition of the *PNN Weekend Report*.

Produced every week by Steve DeVillez and Jean Stanford's broadcast journalism class, the show is comprised of several segments. From 'This Week in History,' to 'In the Lockerroom with T.J. Lux,' it offers a wide variety of events showcasing different areas of the school corporation both high school and elementary.

Don't be fooled. Everything you're seeing is a students' work. From the anchors to the people behind the switcher, students are running the show. Kelli Moore, '96, thought that, "It's a great way to get involved with every aspect of journalism. From on the street reporting, to sitting at the editing bay for hours, the experience you can get from this is invaluable."



◆ The San Francisco 49ers scored early and often on January 29 to defeat the San Diego Chargers 49-26 in a Super Bowl that quickly turned into the rout the experts had predicted.

For 49ers quarterback, Steve Young, the victory not only put his name in the record book but allowed him to escape the ghost of his predecessors, Super Bowl hero Joe Montana.

Young unanimously named the game's most valuable player, passed for 325 yards without an interception and ran for 49.

His six touchdown passes broke the Super Bowl record of five. Montana set that record five years ago.

"Whatever critics he may have had, he proved tonight that he's one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time," 49ers coach George Seifert said of Young.

The San Diego Chargers and the San Francisco 49ers, both of the same state, came together for Super Bowl XXIX. The 49ers were lead by players such as Jerry Rice, Kenny Stabler, Richard Dent, and Ricky Watters.



◆ Japan's nightmare of a disastrous urban earthquake came true on January 17, 1995 when a powerful quake tore through several racing fires and killing more than 5,000 people.

The country had been rattled by a series of strong quakes since late December, when the quake with a magnitude of 7.5 jolted northern Japan.

◆ On Friday, February 3, 1995, Chicago Stadium was demolished by the wrecking ball. It was the home of the professional basketball team, the Chicago Bulls, and the hockey team, Chicago Blackhawks. The Chicago Bulls, lead by all-star, Michael Jordan, were three time NBA champions in the stadium.

The new stadium, the United Center, stands across the street from where Chicago Stadium was located.

# PROVEN POSSIBLE

♦ If rock 'n' roll is here to stay, 1994 made it clear that Aerosmith is too. The band of bad boys from Boston proved that heavy metal need not rust, taking three awards of the 16th annual MTV

Music Video Awards ceremony at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

Aerosmith, pop icons in three decades, collected three prizes for their "Cryin'" video — Best Group Video, Video of the Year and Viewers' Choice Award.

♦ New Gingrich wanted to be speaker of the House years before he managed to win a House seat, and he long ago had plans for the Republican takeover most of his colleagues considered an impossible dream.

This is the Georgia congressman's sense of triumph. He is celebrating it in typical contradictory fashion—high-minded one moment, flamboyant the next. He has said himself he needs to tone down his style, but he hasn't yet taken his own advice.



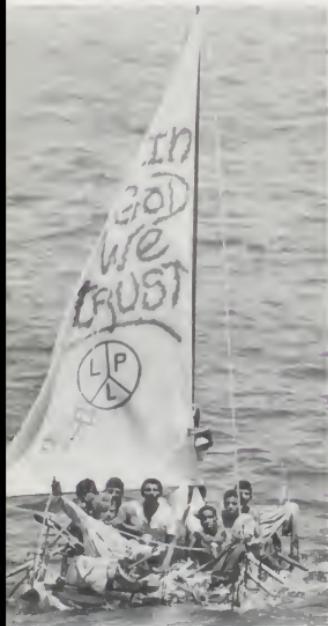
♦ They headed north on almost anything that would float, including rafts made of the flimsiest materials: oil drums, inner tubes, wooden planks.

They were Cubans' best people — tens of thousands of people desperate to come to the United States to escape the poverty and hunger of their increasingly isolated island Communist nation.

Many did not make it because of storms, sinkings or the US Coast Guard, which intercepted more than 1,000 of the crafts in one day in early September.

But the flood of migrants receded shortly thereafter. Reversing a 25-year-old policy of not granting Cubans asylum, the United States agreed to admit at least 20,000 a year.

In return, Cuban leader Fidel Castro promised to halt the flight of boat people. Police gave rafters a few days to get their crafts off Havana's beaches and make sure no new ones were drawn up.



## Riddle Me This...

### A NEW STAR, DIRECTOR, AND VILLAINS BRING THE THIRD BATMAN TO VIVID LIFE.

The Batman films are known for their stellar cast, but nothing could top the group comprised in the third chapter, *Batman Forever*. After losing the star of the first two, Michael Keaton, and director, Tim Burton, people thought that Gotham City would never be the same. But their replacements really did the job quite well.

Val Kilmer stepped up from his roles in *The Doors* and *Tombstone* to be the new Caped Crusader, as did Joel Schumacher to fill Burton's shoes. Also in 'Forever,' *Mad Love's* Chris O'Donnell makes his first appearance as the Boy Wonder, Robin.

But if there ever was a show stealer, no one could beat out Jim Carrey's Riddler and Tommy Lee Jones' Two Face. Coming hot off the heels of Catwoman, played by Michelle Pfeiffer, and the Penguin, as portrayed by Danny DeVito, this gruesome twosome walked away with all the attention on Claw Island, and in theatres for that matter.



◆O.J. Simpson always lived life on camera, first as a football star, then as a sportscaster, commercial pitchman and actor. But nothing could have prepared him, or his fans, for the role he would play in 1995.

Simpson was suspected in the brutal slaying murder of his ex-wife Nicole and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

As a television audience watched — virtually all network programming was preempted — Simpson's white Bronco moved hypnotically along the fabled freeways. Police cars followed in formation, and crowds formed along overpasses.

The most famous murder case in American history continued on throughout the entire year with no end in sight for Simpson, Judge Lance Ito, and the jurors who've been dropping like flies.

◆Who could have ever imagined that a little spark between two or three students could ignite a fire that would enrage almost an entire school?

Tensions between African-Americans and a white student seemingly started a gradual building of frustration that eventually lead to a walkout on March 8. Out of the 250 people thought to participate in the protest, only around 60 actually went through with it and "That figure could be a lower one once final attendance figures are checked," commented Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz, principal.

"Most of the students walked out because they wanted to be on TV," commented Jeff Hendricks, '96. "This doesn't make it look very good for a school to have all these rumors. Merrillville is a fine school," he added.

After all the commotion began to die down, the few that actually started the excitement went live on the VHS system to make a public apology to all of MHS. That along with numerous meetings held by Rapacz seemed to put out the flames and begin to mend wounds made only days earlier.

Held on the heels of that, a guest commentary was run in *The Mirror*, by art teacher Marjorie Foster. In an attempt to lighten the strain on the school from the earlier events, Foster inadvertently made things worse. On the PA system, she apologized for any offences she might had made and told everyone how she now understands the pain brought on by prejudice.



## People we will REMEMBER

- Cab Calloway  
John Candy  
James Clavell  
Ronald Collins  
William Conrad  
Joseph Cotten  
"Papa" John Creach  
Ralph Ellison  
Danny Gatton  
William Graf  
Eugene Ionesco  
Paul Julia  
Irving B. Kahn  
Jack "King" Kirby  
Burt Lancaster  
Walter Lantz  
Irving "Swifty" Lazar  
Alex Macendrick  
Henry Mancini  
Giulietta Masina  
Carmen McRae  
Melina Mercouri  
Cameron Mitchell  
Anita Morris  
Mildred Natwick  
Harriet Nelson  
Harry Nilsson  
Richard Nixon  
Michael O'Donoghue  
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis  
Rose Kennedy  
George Peppard  
Dennis Potter  
Dack Rambo  
Martha Raye  
Fernando Rey  
Red Rooney  
Cesar Romero  
Wilma Rudolph  
Dick Sargent  
Telly Savalas  
Richard Scarry  
Dinah Shore  
Fred "Sonic" Smith  
Julie Styne  
Jessica Tandy  
Danitra Vance  
Frank Wells  
Pedro Zamora

# THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

## ACADEMICS

Perhaps something far more impressive than the stats from the football or basketball teams would be the lengths that MHS goes to retain its standard of academic excellence. It is those student who will prove to the world that **THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.**

◆ Student Greeter, Eric Randolph, '95, works on completing some last minute assignments while waiting for people to enter MHS. Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz thought of the greeters as a way to formalize the high school environment.

◆ Betsy Parrish and Kathy Padberg, both '98, practice the "Timberline March" for the Concert Band's upcoming concert.



Fordough photo





L.F. photo



Desoun Williams, Jason Rubino, and Billie Fenningen, all '97, try to work on their lab in Jack Neuliep's earth science class.



Craig photo

Violet Schmuck, math teacher, tries her best to get students involved in their work. Schmuck often had students up at the board showing their work before the class.

STUDENTS ENDLESSLY SEARCHING FOR

# Excellence

MHS'S  
MOTTO  
THINKS  
WE ARE  
TRYING  
TO ACCOMPLISH  
EXCELLENCE

"The Pursuit of Excellence," definitely strong and meaningful words. Not only are they powerful, but it is also the motto of Merrillville Community School Corporation. "The Pursuit of Excellence" basically means that Merrillville is constantly working and perfecting, seeking to become better. According to principal, Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz, the motto means that "we are constantly trying our best."

"We don't want to settle for mediocrity or what everyone else may be doing," comments Rapacz. It means that even if we're recognized as being good or even very good, we're going to 'strive' to do better." With the newly finished MHS facility, it is very easy to try and accomplish this feat. Assistant principal, Tom Herbert adds, "People are constantly trying to move or get their children involved in the Merrillville School System, not only because of the name, but because we strive for excellence here, and that is the best place for an education."

Whether the excellence exists in organizations, athletics, or academics, one sure thing is that MHS is always in pursuit of something greater. "There is no finish line with respect to our motto," concludes Rapacz.

◆ KIMBERLY ANDERSON



◆ During the State Board of Education open forum, Erika Yambrosik, '95, speaks with Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz about how he feels about the possibility of lengthening the school year. Merrillville hosted the event in the Reinhardt Auditorium.





◆ Preparing to enter a file for Janet Kirby, '96, Rob Moore, social studies teacher, checks the commands on the IBM computers.



Fordough photo

## ABOUT THE MOTTO

**"We don't want to settle for mediocrity or what everyone else may be doing."**

**-Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz**



Fordough photo

◆ Singing swing, Jill Matlask, '98, prepares for the choir's Benefit Concert. The Choir Boosters help to put on the event.



◆ Taking a glance of Dymita Jones' work, French teacher, Madeline Wilson checks to see how accurate the answers are. All foreign language labs had hands-on to improve student learning by allowing hands-on experience.

Craig photo

◆ Being interviewed by publications student Laurie Moness, '95, Dr. Tony Lux pauses for a moment in his busy day. This marked the first year that Lux was the superintendent of the Merrillville Community School Corporation.

TEACHERS FIND WAYS TO BE

# Unique

Different  
TEACHING-  
STYLES  
BECAUSE  
SCHOOL  
TEACHING-

THE SCENE: CHEMISTRY SECOND PERIOD. MRS. (OR MR.) YOU-KNOW-WHO IS GOING ON ABOUT SPONTANEOUS ENDOTHERMIC REACTIONS. YOU HAVE LOST INTEREST, HAVE LOST YOUR MIND, AND ARE HALFWAY TO OZ WHEN YOU'RE AWAKENED FROM DREAMLAND BY THE SOUND OF THE TEACHER'S VOICE. YOU'RE UP NOT EVEN TEN MINUTES WHEN MR. SANDMAN HITS AGAIN. YOU FIGHT TO STAY AWAKE KNOWING THAT THIS STUFF COULD BE USEFUL IN LIFE SOMEDAY. YOU WISH YOU HAD TOOTHPICKS TO HOLD YOUR EYES OPEN.

WAKE-UP!!!

You don't have to do this anymore! Many teachers like Mike Zolfo and Randy Stelter, both English teachers, and Beth Given, math teacher, have found new interesting ways of teaching. Some of the teachers at MHS use real life situations to teach. Others have you keep journals, and yet others use games to improve listening and communication skills. No more dreading English, geometry or chemistry. Now, we actually want to learn! Scary, isn't it? These teachers are better than we thought. They have ways of making us learn without even realizing it. Could they be from another planet? No, believe it or not, they're from MHS!!

◆ JAMIE MCKENNEY



◆ Working on their award-winning banner, Maryann Foster, art teacher, shows Joe Clements, '96, how to shade with chalk. Since FEA won the Red Ribbon week banner competition, SADD treated them to a pizza party.



◆ Going over his students' assignments, Mike Zello, English and speech teacher, reviews for a test the next day. Zello not only teaches, but also works with the natural helpers, a support group at MHS.

◆ Always trying something new, computer art teacher, Wanda Rice, takes it from the beginning as she shows Mike Mitevski, '95, how to work with Alias Freehand. Rice and her students had to experiment with the new programs.



Fordough photo



## THE POSSIBILITIES ARE Endless

### What teaching style helps you learn the most



"When they take time to explain things to you, and they aren't boring."

Lena Gilfillan, '95



"Working in groups works best. Friends are sometimes better help than teachers."

Jason Adler, '96



"Down to earth teachers."

Jeff VanVolkenburgh, '97



"When you learn by doing projects instead of lectures."

Milena Maric, '98



◆ Showing her class how it's done, Beth Given, math teacher and cheerleading coach, uses an overhead projector to get her point across. Projectors along with the VHS system were often used to serve as learning aides for the students.

◆ Always on the phone, English teacher, Barbara Feby tries to sort things out on her prep period. Many teachers used the time to contact parents or other teachers.

◆ Trying to complete a science assignment isn't always an easy task for Penny Lange, '96, and Robert Lewis, '97, who both took science to fill their four credit requirement.



Cruise photo

## WINNER'S PHILOSOPHY

"Cheaters  
never win, and  
winners never  
cheat."

-Mandy Olejnik, '95

◆ Trying to finish some last minute assignments, Andy Bowden, '97, sacrifices his lunch hour to complete his work. Many students scrounged for time to complete their work whether it be before or even during school.



Gerrard photo



Cruise photo

◆ Kim Swierc, '97, writes up her vocab in her French class. Vocab was the key in a foreign language since it is the backbone of the language.

◆ Looking puzzled, Thirza Rodriguez, '97, tries her best to come up with the answers for her social studies class. If a student didn't know, the next best thing for them to do was to make a very well-educated guess.



INRESPONSIBLE STUDENTS LEARN THE

# Hard Way

**I**N THE ENDLESS STRUGGLE TO SUCCEED, HONESTY IS OFTEN SACRIFICED. Numerous students must deal with the pressures of learning during their high school education. These pressures can cause many thoughts to run through a student's overloaded mind. A student who is willing and able to handle these tough times will follow through and do what it takes to reach their goals. On the contrary, that student who is unable to work through the difficult pressures of school might begin to think of alternative methods. One of these methods may include cheating.

Yes, cheating. Cheating is used by students as a way to pass or get through a test that they don't know anything about. These situations, believe it or not, do occur in the classroom. Mike Mikesell, '95, admits,

"That's how I passed last year." As he remembers last year, others are thinking about the future. Tyson Owen, '95, responds, "I just hope my grandchildren don't hear about this."

The teachers are aware of this scandal, but many of them share the same views.

"The worst part about cheating is that the student doesn't learn," remarks Irene Spiro, French teacher. Once that answer is copied on the paper, that is as far as it will go. The student does not absorb the information that is taught. Michelle Sulich states, "I'd rather the students make a mistake and learn from it, than cheat and not learn anything." This may be correct, but many students are afraid of making that mistake.

Many students have a negative feeling towards cheating. One belief Rich Stazinski, '95, has is that, "You're only cheating yourself when you cheat." This is often true, and another view is as Barbara Hoagland, '97, puts it, "Just think of the wonderful education you'll be depriving yourself of." Many students do not think of this opportunity when they are in the midst of flunking a test. One motto to live by is as Mandy Olejnik, '95, says, "Cheaters never win, and winners never cheat."

◆ NANCY PACKOVSKI



\* They're not cheating now, are they? Jason Lockhart, '96, along with Frank McMullen and Ricky Fresh, both '97, work on a group in Sally Grendle's math class. It is often hard for teachers to tell if the work done in groups is a joint effort or by a sole individual.

Grenada photo

CHEATING  
DEALS  
SUSPENSE  
SWEEPER  
ASHLEY  
HARD  
SCARING  
ALIVE

◆ Tony Apulera, '95, works quietly by himself in the student commons during his lunch hour. For many students lunch was the only chance they got to go over a few last minute things.

◆ Yvonne Guardiola, '97, tries to concentrate as she puts the finishing touches on her biology homework for William Anaplela's S-2 period Bio class. Anaplela often made assignments due at the end of the hour to prevent homework.

## THE POSSIBILITIES ARE Endless

Where is the best place to study?

Christina

Celakoski,

'95

"At the library."



MATT  
Trejkovski,

'96

"At work."



Justin  
Kissinger,  
'97

"The library."



Mike  
Polak,  
'98

"D hallway."



◆ Jesus del Real and Robin Stupar, both '95, try to take accurate data for their lab in Jack Neuliep's science class.

◆ Classical Literature isn't one of the easiest classes for most, as Pam Good, '95, finds out. Classical Lit often touched on Greek Mythology, slides, and a little Shakespeare.



SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT PLACE

# Studying

FROM THE OUTSHIRS OF THE CATERIA TO THE PRIVACY OF THEIR OWN HOMES, GOOD STUDENTS EVERYWHERE ARE DOING IT STUDYING THAT IS. BUT TODAY'S SCHOLARS ARE NO LONGER RESTRICTED BY THE FOUR WALLS OF THE LIBRARY; STUDY HABITS SEEM TO BE GETTING AS UNIQUE AS THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE THEM.

While the traditional "study spots" usually include the public library, at home in the bedroom, and especially homeroom for completion of last-minute assignments, the places cited by some MHS students were much more distinctive. Jamie Buncich, '95, stated that, "Once, I studied in a forest, up in a tree." Her desire to be surrounded by nature while learning was shared by Angela Harris, '95, who said, "I study outside. It's too hectic in my house." These two students were among many who felt the need to escape from the "hustle and bustle" and do their studying in peace and quiet.

"On the toilet," was Abigail Vivo's, location of choice, and "In the shower," Barbara Hoagland's, '97, joking reply. Even the bathroom facilities are not exempt from the pathways of determined students.

More common areas include home-room and first period, lunch time, and even slouched in a seat during a bumpy bus ride. Many pupils utilize their bedrooms for study time, and a few even spread out to other areas of the house. Michelle Lenart, '95, revealed her study patterns saying, "I do it in the back room in front of the T.V. with the dog sitting on my lap."

Not all students have such routine study habits. Candice Parker, '96, said, "I study wherever I can get away from my sister." Some students even confessed that they don't study at all.

The scope of study places may be vast, but there is a common thread. Any place can be made into a study spot, as long as there is a student who is willing and determined to concentrate and get the job done, and there are no major distractions to get in the way.

◆IRENE HALIKAS

Fordough photo



◆Erin Janowsky, '95, works on her assignment in Bob Bergeson's computer programming class. Janowsky was also a member of the football Homecoming Court.

◆Steve Manning, '97; Nick Wright, '96; and Paul Zelch, '97, take time out of Coach Dick Wimmer's gym class to take their pulse. This was a requirement during their 20 minute run.



Gronlund photo

## CORRECT BALANCE

"Many people deal with the same problems, so you just have to get your priorities straight."

-T.J. Lux, '95

◆As a part of his P.E. class, John Miller, '97, plays ping pong in the hallway outside the gymnasium.



Gronlund photo



Friedberg photo

◆During a local press conference, co-captains of the basketball team, T.J. Lux and Brett Fedak, both '95, sign papers for full basketball scholarships to the college of their choice. Fedak also toured the nation this past summer playing the sport.

◆Brian Trivette, '95, takes a shot for Sally Gradeless's project in math class. They were learning probability and Gradeless thought basketball was the best to learn this. Bob Ferguson also had his classes in the gym for that purpose.



# Academics

EVER FEEL LIKE THERE IS JUST NOT ENOUGH TIME IN A DAY TO ACCOMPLISH EVERYTHING? Many MHS students are involved in one or many sports throughout the school year. Between school, practice, and homework, it can become an extremely full day for most athletes. The average athlete practices between two and three hours each day. Varsity basketball player Brett Fedak, '95, said he copes with not having enough time in a day by, "Sometimes I lift and shoot before school." He just does not have the time after school for all this pre-season practice. Natalie Conner, '97, is involved in soccer and pom-poms at the same time. She spends two to three hours practicing everyday after school. She said, "On Tuesdays and Thursdays I don't get home until 9:00 or 9:30 at night. I have pom practice and then go right to my games." Unfortunately, she has to miss some of her brother's soccer games in order to complete her homework. Tennis player, T.J. Lux, '95, agrees that it is tough to juggle school work and sports. He stated, "Many people deal with the same problems, so you just have to get your priorities straight." Varsity football player, Tyson Owen, '95, commented,

"There's always enough time to do what is needed to do after practices, although sometimes I glance at the clock and it reads 2:00 A.M."

Where does a social life fit into the hectic schedule of school, practice, and homework? According to Natalie Conner, '97, she must sacrifice gossiping with her friends for schoolwork and sports. Most athletes still find time to talk to and go out with their friends, but not nearly as much as they did during the previous summer.

MHS has very strict rules about athletes and whether their grades are high enough for them to participate in sports. Each athlete must pass five solid subjects in order to remain in their sport or sports. Otherwise, they will be benched, or even removed from the team until the next grading period is over, and they have improved their grades. So learning to budget time wisely, and juggling school and sports can prove to be a hectic, yet rewarding experience.

◆ JENNIFER BEWLEY



Tracy Parker, Angie Ellifit, and Deidre Elizondo, all '95, take some time out of their hectic school day to catch up on a few things in the student commons area. Ellifit runs track in the spring.

Gurude photo

DEBATES  
HONOR  
ATHLETICS  
AS A  
ACADEMICS  
MHS'S  
ATHLETES  
BALANCE  
MANY  
DAM

TRYING TO FINISH WORK WITH A LOT OF

# Lost Time

MISSING  
CLASS  
SCHOOLING  
MUSIC  
CASUAL  
DRESS  
HOLIDAY  
WEEKEND  
WITH  
TIME OFF  
CAMPUS  
HOME

ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM MONOTONOUS REPEATING THE SAME schedule day in and day out, attendance is the key to success in high school, or any aspect of life.

Students don't seem to realize the severity of missing school. What may seem of little consequence, in reality, deprives students of the unwritten knowledge gained from class discussions. In other words, "a lost moment in time can never be recovered."

Many teachers go far beyond the written text in the book in order to get their point across to students. These lectures are a vital part of a student's education because most of the tests are based on what the teachers say, rather than what is printed in the book. Therefore, it is literally impossible to make up this work because it can not be found in the textbook.

Schools generally try to make exceptions for those students who become severely ill. In such a case, these students would not be penalized. However, under most circumstances, it is the responsibility of the student to determine what is needed to be made up because of the absence. For instance, one could gather notes from classmates in order to have the general idea and main points from a discussion he or she missed.

Getting behind can create a great deal of pressure for a student. Not only is he expected to make up the work from his absence, he is required to participate in class and complete the present material.

Next time you attempt to utter the words, "Mom, I don't feel good. Can I please stay home today?" Think twice about the consequences and added stress it causes.

◆ LAURIE MANESS



♦ A student in Jim Dailey's shop class uses the drill press. Students who enroll in machine shop become very familiar with many different machines involved in creating wood and metal projects.



◆ Teachers, as well as students can fall behind due to missed time. Al Brenda, math teacher, tries to motivate his students to want to learn, but that may be harder than he thinks when many are out for various reasons.

◆ Newspaper is just one class you can not miss!! Claudio Neri, '96, tries to put up the homecoming issue of *The Mirror*, the student newspaper of MHS. Neri is one of six page editors.



Craig photo

Fordham photo

## THE POSSIBILITIES ARE Endless

### What is the hardest class to make work up in



"Advanced math classes because it is hard enough to keep up when I am in class!"

Angel  
LeLoup,  
'95



"Trigonometry because you are always doing new things."

Robert  
Heath,  
'96



"Missing class can really make you fall behind in shop."

Ted  
Bewley,  
'97



"Miss May's Honors English because of the compositions."

Melissa  
Sonaty,  
'98



◆ Steve Szal, '95, shoves his book aside when he decides it's time for a short break from the exhausting brain teasing problems. Sleeping in class often made students fall behind, if they weren't caught first.

◆ Chris Miles, '98, takes his time working on an art project for Marianne Foster. This was the first time that Foster had had her students work with ink.

♦ Sam Barnett, '95, teases his long blond hair when he has extra time on his hands in class. Barnett even adds hairspray for super holding power.



Baldor photo

## PAYING ATTENTION

"Students are rather rowdy, and their attention spans are no greater than a flea."

♦ Ben Orlecan, and Jenni Randolph, both '95, enjoy the view of the balloons Nancy Packowski, '95, received on her birthday.



Grenako photo



C. Parker photo

♦ Cheryl Albers, guidance secretary, is accompanied by fuzzy stuffed friends as she busies herself with her work in the guidance office.

♦ Melissa Stelter, '95, is decked out in Christmas attire on the day before Christmas break as she reads *Macbeth* in classical literature.

# Annoyance

PICTURE THIS, YOU'RE SITTING IN PHYSICS TAKING THE TEST THAT you have been vigorously preparing for all week, when all of a sudden this screeching voice comes across the PA system, "Please excuse this interruption." Notice the key word in this phrase? INTERRUPTION!

At various times throughout a school day obvious emergencies arise, and the student body needs to be informed. However, many of the disturbances that occur are not worth the chaos they cause. For instance, Student Services can never have too many assistants because they are constantly pulling students out of class. Why does it seem like the only time requests are marked immediately is when you are right in the middle of something? Teachers understand the principle, yet it still causes a problem. Not only is their lecture interrupted, the student can't possibly regain what that teacher is trying to get across if he or she is expected to leave. Last hour teachers especially become aggravated because it is

the end of the day. Students are rather rowdy, and their attention spans are no greater than a flea. It seems like once the class finally settles down, and the learning process begins to take place, students come strolling in with clusters of balloons to be delivered. All eyes in the room turn

to gawk at the receiver, and students often ask questions like, "Who are those from?" Again, the teacher loses his or her train of thought, and frustration begins to build. As the class is running out of time, and the teacher tries to conclude his or her discussion, or give a homework assignment, wouldn't you know it? That voice rings in on the speaker and says, "Please excuse us for a couple of last minute announcements." When did a couple turn into what seems like an eternity? As soon as the students hear that ring, it is as if a switch clicks in their little heads. They begin to put the chairs on top of their desks, gather their things, and line up at the door. Although there are times when it is truly necessary for a disturbance, many students and teachers would appreciate a little courtesy, and a lot less disturbances throughout the day to help eliminate a great deal of frustration.

◆ LAURIE MAHESS



◆ Brandon Nelson, '96, imitates a "Star Trek" character, when he should be listening to his Spanish lesson. All of the foreign language classrooms are equipped with headsets to help the teachers with their lessons.

Fordough photo

FROM  
PA SYSTEM  
TO STUDENT  
ACTIVITIES,  
SOMEHOW  
INTERRUPT-  
IONS  
ALWAYS  
FIND THEIR  
WAY INTO  
THE CLASS-  
ROOM.

# HELPING STUDENTS AFTER School

VARIOUS  
COURSES,  
SUCCEED  
ENRICH  
MATH  
AS  
SCIENCE  
CLUBS  
STUDENTS  
ACTIVITIES  
INVOLVED  
SUPPORT

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS: "DO RUN-OFFS MAKE YOU want to run away? Come to the English clinic for extra academic aid." Sound familiar? Throughout the halls of MHS, many posters form a makeshift wallpaper hoping to encourage students who are seeking additional help in difficult subjects, such as math, science, and English.

According to Nicole Hiatt, '95, "These programs can be extremely beneficial when preparing for a test." Hiatt, similar to most students, feels that the one-on-one teaching basis found at these clinics is mostly what is needed in order to fully comprehend a subject. Jon Shultz, '95, states, "I feel the clinic is helpful when I need to make up the work I missed from an absence."

Valerie Gutjahr, '95, adds, "I like the idea that kids can go into the clinic and receive help from teachers other than the one they see every day in class." After all, teachers have their own methods of trying to get their point across to students. Although their techniques may be comprehensible to most of the kids, there are still those few who just can't quite understand. At least in the clinics, students have the opportunity to learn from a variety of teachers. By combining the knowledge being shared from these teachers, a student is more likely to understand all aspects of the project.

The clinics are held after school in selected classrooms. Although it is held in a classroom setting, the strict rules that apply throughout the normal period do not apply. For instance, students are allowed to talk among their peers who are also participating in the clinic.

"When you have an illness and you miss twenty days of school like I did, they're great to go to and make up the work you missed," said Denise Gilbey, '95.

◆ LAURIE MANESS



◆ Sally Gradeless, math clinic teacher, takes time to help students who need the individual attention that cannot always be received in a class of 30 students.



◆ Angelia Krumrie, '97, sits quietly and takes out her supplies for Spanish class. Students are expected to bring the proper supplies to class with them everyday, such as a notebook and pencils. Sometimes students were even required to keep journals as well.



◆ Lynn Deric and Deven Parker, both '97, along with Sonja Mitchell, '96, and Vicki McMillon, '95, practice in the band room. They performed this number at half-time of one of the football games.

Cause photo



## THE POSSIBILITIES ARE Endless

### How have the different clinics helped you



"Thanks to Mr. Feeney and the math clinic, I was able to pass any test."

Mindy Foley,  
'95



"Well, I thought the math clinic had helped me, but when I took the test, I plunked it."

Linda Mysliewiec,  
'96



"The science clinic really helped, especially since I passed any test."

Amanda Buda,  
'97



"They help me catch up on my work, and raise my grade from when I am absent."

Felicia Lamb,  
'98



◆ After school, students gather in the library to receive help from the many teachers who run the math, science, and English clinics. Teachers often lend their services until 4:00.

◆ Joe Slavik and Eric Walls, both '95, store their computers when typing their term papers for advanced composition.



Fordough photo

◆ Jeremy Schwandt, '96, tries to break down his opponent in a home wrestling match. MHS hosted the DAC in mid-February.

◆ Andy Belush, '96, tries his hardest toward the end of his race against Poreope.

Although cross country is more of an individual sport, the team strived for unity.



Fordough photo



# ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

---

S P O R T S

On court and off, the athletes of MHS excelled. Whether it be in tennis or basketball, they never gave up, showing the opponents that Pirate Pride was alive and doing well in Merrillville. And with the fans coming along for the ride, everyone knew that...

## ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN.

◆ Phil Lewis, '95, walks off the field during the Valpo game. The Pirates were 6-3 in football for the '94 season.



Karen photo

◆ Tom Lepp, '95, returned a serve on the court. Sid Rivera, and T.J. Lux, both '95, went on to represent the Pirates at state.



◆ Waiting for Brian Fiegan, '95, to make the call, #75 Chris Demure, '90, and #73 Mike Wisniewski, '95, keep a close eye on the Valpo defense. The Pirates toppled the Vikings with a score of 38-21.



◆ With a look of anguish on his face, Jeff Thomas, '97, watches as Valpo tries to make a comeback in the third quarter. Although they scored two touchdowns, it still wasn't enough to beat the Eucs.

◆ Leading off the game, Warren Conner, '95, tries to get his leg into the opening kickoff at the Eibart game. Conner somehow managed to play both football and soccer in the same season.



♦ Coach Ken Goudret instructs Joe Hussey, '95, and Chris Mavcsek, '96, on the next play in the Crown Point game.



# Touch Down

Holding a near-perfect record, until the Portage game that is, the Bucs stood strong. Proving that Merrillville had a great team, they crushed Hobart.

We had the stadium, we had the fans, but did we have the team? Most people did not think the 1994 Merrillville football season would go that well, but the Pirates had a season to prove them wrong.

The team lost a lot of their key players from last year, but this made all the more room for other team members to come out and try their hardest.

Matt Siecker, linebacker, '96, commented, "I thought our season went extremely well. As a whole all the players performed at an exceptional level. We also had great leadership from our seniors."

With a 6-2 regular season record and 6-3 after sectionals, the team didn't let down their devoted fans.

This season it seemed as though the team could feel the school spirit pouring down from the stands. Ryan Parlock, full back, full safety, and co-captain, '95, commented, "We grew really close as a team. There was a lot of leadership and character, and there were no fights. This group really de-

fined the word team." Parlock then went on to say how proud he was to be co-captain of a team with so much unity.

The team lead the Pirates to victory during the Homecoming game with the Valparaiso Vikings by a score of 38 to 21. Kevin Pruess, wide receiver, '96, stated, "We all stuck together through adversity and played our hardest most of the time."

And who could forget the stomping of the Hobart Brickies with a score of 36 to 6 when the remarkable Marino Stath made numerous touchdowns in a single game? But to some dismay, people also remember the heart-wrenching loss to Portage. Some have said that had they had the home field advantage, the loss suffered would not have been quite as bad.

Mike Krutz, the special teams and defensive line coach, commented on the season, "I thought the overall season was going good until the last two games. We peaked at the Hobart game. Overall, that was the best game I've seen since I've been here."

♦ AMANDA RICHARDSON



**66**  
We all stuck  
together  
through adver-  
sity and  
played our  
hardest most of  
the time.

♦ Kevin  
Pruess, '96

Anything  
Could  
Happen

VARSITY	JUNIOR VARSITY
Crown Point 32-14	Crown Point 20-0
Chesterton 35-7	Chesterton 6-22
Portage 0-28	Portage 14-8
M.C. Rogers 34-0	M.C. Rogers 34-14
Valparaiso 38-21	Valparaiso 22-7
Andrean 27-7	Andrean 21-7
Hobart 37-7	Hobart 22-21
LaPorte 13-28	LaPorte 6-20
SECTIONALS	
Lake Central 7-35	

♦ Team pictures on pages 186-187.

Fordough photo

# Long Distance

Competing well against teams like Andrean and Portage, both the guys and girls cross country teams had semi-successful seasons.

They just keep going and going and going... No, it's not the Energizer bunny, it's the boys and girls Cross Country teams. And what is it that keeps them truckin' the whole season long? It's definitely not the Grateful Dead, that's for sure. What keeps Jessica Figueroa, '95, going is "that I know I'm a good runner, and I know I can do it." Similarly, Rich Staszinski, '95, says, "I drive myself to become a better runner. Also, it's my love for running that makes me want to be the best possible."

Unfortunately, many potential cross country runners are discouraged from even so much as attempting to go out for the team. Just the thought of all the strenuous work and time consuming practices is enough to prevent the mentally and physically weak from participating in the sport. However, with all this confidence, how did the season turn out? Well, for the boys it

turned out to be a successful one. They competed very well in a tough conference and against teams like Andrean and Portage. With many talented team members returning next year, they will hopefully deliver another promising season.

Staszinski stated, "There's a lot of talent on the team. With a lot of young members, they should have a very strong season next year."

On the other hand, the girls didn't have as much luck as the guys. By losing many quality members of their team, it restrained the other returning members, and the drastic change made it difficult. Unlike the previous year, this time the girls did not make it as far as semi-state. Although Figueroa was the most valuable player, she feels that "it is not an individual effort, but a team effort that makes a season successful."

◆ GARY KRYSA & NICOLE HIATT

I know I'm a  
good runner,  
and I know I  
can do it.  
◆ Jessica  
Figueroa, '95

◆ Jessica Vargas,  
'97, starts the race  
out ahead of the rest.

Cross country  
runners must learn  
to pace themselves  
for the long haul.



Furbough photo

◆ Team pictures on page 186.



Fordough photo



◆ Rich Stozinski, '95, charges full force toward another first place victory. Stozinski also takes part in track.



Fordough photo



Fordough photo

◆ Cheryl Gonzalez, '95, races against Andrew opponents of Hidden Lake. Hidden Lake was used as the Pintos' home course.

◆ Nearing the finish line, Matthew Johnson, '95, tries to hold onto his pace. Cross Country races tended to be a few miles long.

◆ Samantha Dimoff, '97, anxiously awaits her turn on the court. Dimoff was just one of the many underclassmen who participated on the varsity team.



# Game Point

Dominating the competition, players like Riddle, Harris, both Malerichs, and the Price twins helped to lead MHS to a sectional title.



I think we performed to the best of our abilities.

◆ Beth Zak, '97

Volleyball definitely proved to be a dominating sport at Merrillville throughout the past year. With team members like Angie Harris, Nan Malerich, both '95, and Dede Riddle, '96, the team was bound to go far. The strength alone carried everyone to sectionals. And it was the extreme dedication of each of the members that took them even further to receive the sectional title. Both Rachel and Ronda Price, '96, along with Beth Zak, Sharon Segovich, Wava Riddle, and Leslie Malerich, all '97, were contributing players. Not to mention those who climbed the ranks for sectional play such as Sarah Frink, Kris Burke, and Stephanie Valse.

The team's feelings on the season differed from player to player. "I think we performed to the best of our abilities," said Beth Zak.

As a team, they worked hard all year, which took them to the second game of regionals. With as much power and energy as this team has,

there has to be someone or something who gets the group motivated before a game. Dede Riddle commented, "We think about what the opposing team has done to us, or we just concentrate on the game. Self-motivation."

"We accomplished many goals and on some, we came up short. We worked hard as a team and we became a unit," commented Nan Malerich, '95. "Everyone supported each other whether we were on the court or bench. With all the experience every player had, we were no longer a young team," although we had a lot of freshmen."

So whether it is the motivation Riddle and Malerich speak of or everyone working as one, the thing that will be remembered most about volleyball will be their overall success. The team had an excellent season. Obviously, working together to accomplish a goal that is shared by the whole team was something that kept them going all season.

◆ SARAH BURT

Anything  
Could  
Happen

Andrean	Calumet	Hebron	Hanover
15-10, 15-1	15-3, 15-11	15-4, 14-16, 15-12	15-3, 15-9
Whiting	Portage	LaPorte	River Forrest
15-5, 15-10	16-14, 10-15, 15-13	13-15, 16-14, 9-15	15-1, 15-2
Lake Station	Bishop Noll	Munster	Hobart
15-2, 15-10	15-3, 15-5	15-12, 12-15, 17-15	13-15, 15-3, 15-2
Griffith	Chesterton	McCutcheon	Crown Point
15-8, 15-12	15-5, 13-15, 14-16	9-15, 15-12, 8-15	15-2, 15-6
Lake Central	Morton	Fort Wayne	Andrean
16-14, 9-15, 5-15	15-7, 15-6	15-10, 15-12	15-8, 15-0
Hobart	Crown Point	Mishawaka	Lake Central
15-6, 15-11	15-13, 12-15, 15-13	12-15, 9-15	9-15, 13-15
Lowell	Valparaiso	Wallace	
15-5, 15-6	15-9, 12-15, 15-13	15-2, 15-3	
Boone Grove	Rogers	Highland	
15-9, 15-6	12-15, 10-15	15-3, 15-4	





Larshagh photo

◆ Every time the JV and the varsity volleyball teams took the court they would come together for a single cheer. This was meant to help the team work as a single unit.



Larshagh photo

◆ Leslie Molerich, '97, concentrates on a serve to Andrean opponents. The Ducs dominated over the 59ers with scores of 15-6, and 15-0. During this game, Angie Harris demonstrated her athletic abilities.

◆ Rachel Price, '96, sets the ball up for her twin teammate Ronda, also '96. Along with the Price twins, sisters Dan and Leslie Molerich also helped the Lady Pirates to a successful season.

◆ Team pictures on page 190



◆ Chris Sikich, '97, perfects his freestyle technique for sectionals during practice. Unfortunately, this year the boys swim team was defeated in sectionals.



◆ A swimmer heads for the finish line in hopes of a victory. The girls season was fairly successful with an overall record of 6-7.

Furbaugh photo  
◆ Doug Reeves, '98, comes up for air at practice after school. Swim team members had to attend practice not only after school, but also in the morning before school.



◆ Morgan Gray, '96, takes a leap of faith for the Lady Pirates diving team. Gray, along with Alisa Zak, '95, acted as two of the dominating members of the team.



## Going Deep

**With much motivation and positive attitudes coming from their coaches, both the boys and girls swim teams concluded with fairly successful seasons.**

"On your marks, get set, GO!" These words rang across the pool as the swimmers got ready to take to the water. This season went quite well for our swimming Pirates both male and female. According to Stephanie Nicolini, '96, "I feel we had a great season. The team as well as many individuals made great improvements and achievements."

Although the girls swim team were runners up for sectionals, there was still a little bit of disappointment among the team members. But overall they felt that the team gave 100% at every meet. Many improvements were made by experienced swimmers and the newcomers.

The boys swim team also had a reasonably successful season. Top swimmers were Chris Sikich, '97; Matt Pavlovich, '98; and also Eric Randolph, '95, who suffered a slight shoulder injury.

Every team has a motivator, someone who gets the team excited before a game or meet. On the boys team Ali

Santos, '98, and the coaches, Brian Angerman and Coach Mc Carthy seemed to be the ones to get everyone pumped up and ready to win. Throughout the season the boys went up against some pretty competitive teams, the top three being Munster, Valpo, and Chesterton. This year's coaches seemed to have a positive affect on the teams. Angerman who coached both the boys and girls teams was very excited about the season as well as Mc Carthy. Both coaches pushed their teams to be the best that they could be, which obviously proved positive.

The diving teams had two excellent divers this year, Morgan Gray, '96, and Alisa Zak, '95. In competition, they faired very well.

Over all, the three aquatic teams had outstanding seasons. But one feeling shared by most of the team members is that they wish more people would come and cheer them on at their meets.

◆ SARAH BURT



**The team made great improvements and achievements.**

**◆ Stephanie Nicolini, '96**

**Anything Could Happen**

GIRLS	BOYS
Griffith 121-53	Portage 127-61
Crown Point 89-77	Hobart 106-80
Hammond 105-58	Rensselaer 106-80
LaPorte 79-107	Crown Point 107-78
Portage 74-112	Lake Central 124-62
Highland 107-79	MC Rodgers 99-86
K. Valley 107-68	Munster 107-77
Chesterton 65-121	LaPorte 117-89
Valparaiso 55-130	Highland 131-55
M.C. Rogers 110-59	Chesterton 138-48
Hobart 116-60	DAC 7th Place
Munster 63-123	Lowell 112-68

Fordough photo

◆ Kristin Lucio,  
'95, helps excited  
fans spell out  
"Pirates." Posters  
and signs help the  
cheerleaders raise  
spirit.



Fordham photo

◆ Steve Eubis,  
'95, cheers on the  
basketball team. This  
is the second year  
MHS has had male  
cheerleaders.



Fordham photo



Fordham photo

◆ Meghan Wojciechowski, '95,  
shows her spirit and courage  
from the top of a pyramid. The  
guys acted as bases for stunts.

◆ Kimberly Anderson, '95,  
holds up the sign, "We've Got a  
Team Goin' All the Way!"



◆ The cheerleaders perform cheers during halftime and time-outs in order to get fans involved.



## Spirit Strong

Hard work, dedication, a week-long summer camp, and a dozen new male members, all pay off for the cheerleaders when fans show excitement and school spirit.

"LET'S GO MHS!" This catchy little phrase can be heard at various football and basketball games from none other than the spirited cheerleaders. They are a main part of the game except for, of course, the players themselves. The cheerleaders get the crowd excited and interested in the event. Without them, who would lead the cheers and perform dazzling stunts?

This year, the exciting factor of male cheerleaders again entered the picture. Many of the present female cheerleaders are excited about their male counterparts. Angie Kilgore, '95, stated, "It improves our squad and adds to the excitement of the crowd, and it allows us to do bigger and better stunts." Since the guys have been added, practices have been longer and more challenging. Mark Lengly, '95, cheers because he feels it "is a good experience" and would like to continue in college.

Cheerleaders are really dedicated people who love the sport of cheering.

Every summer, the entire squad attends a week long camp and a competition that is part of that camp. It is almost considered mandatory to attend, for it helps the squad improve as a whole. Aleisha Rodriguez, '95, stated, "You work your butt off, it's very stressful." They practice from early morning until evening with few breaks.

This year at competition, the cheerleaders took a dance routine and placed highly. This displays the outstanding talent of the squad and their ability to choreograph. Camp and competition are also times to show school spirit, and the cheerleaders again rated highly against other participating schools.

Cheerleading is an activity some take for granted. Can you imagine a game without them and how quiet it would be? It is hard work. Mandy Olejnik, '95, states, "Hard work and sweat pay off only when you get a crowd response."

◆ DEIDRE ELIZONDO

◆ Waving from a Merrillville fire truck, cheerleaders with a happy July 4th to bystanders. Both Varsity and Junior Varsity participate in the parade each year.



**The guys  
improve our  
squad and  
add to the  
excitement of  
the crowd.**

◆ Angie  
Kilgore, '95



◆ Team pictures on page 193.

Faubrough photo

# Flying High

Moving to a year-round sport, the flags will now have an opportunity to perform their vivacious routines at different games all year long.

New purple uniforms, a new coach, and brand new flags. What does this describe? The new color guard squad attracts much attention on the football field during halftime. The swift motion of their flags as the wind blows through them on a cool fall evening lures many football fans to the sight. The color guard spends many hours preparing for their performances. They spent a day during the summer at Valparaiso University where they learned different routines and many current moves. Although the camp was not mandatory this year, the girls that did attend had some valuable experiences.

The color guard has been performing during football games for many years. This year, however, they were under the direction of coach Michelle King. With the help of her two captains, Yvonne Escott, '95, and Missy Stefanski, '96, the guard feels they had a very successful year. "Since it was my first year, the routines weren't as complicated as they have been in the past, but they looked really sharp because everyone was together," says

King.

The color guard is moving to a year-round season with all of their activities. During the summer, they march with the band in the annual 4th of July parade, and the fall season leads them into football. This year, however, they moved into basketball season with the addition of a winter guard. The winter guard performed during one of the junior varsity halftimes and during one pep assembly. "Winter guard was a whole new experience this year. It is something new because we don't have to be as stiff. Performing at the pep rally was different because there were so many people. I was terrified," claims Melissa Glorioso, '96.

During spring break, the guard marched and performed at Magic Kingdom in Florida. This was the highlight of their week long trip. Nadia Venegas, '95, comments on the experience, "It was different performing with the shorter poles on the flags, but we were able to do more with them. The parade was a short parade with a lot of people watching our performance."

◆NANCY PACKOVSKI



◆ The winter guard ends a routine performed for the student body at the all-sport pep rally. This was the first year for the winter guard.



## Anything Could Happen

◆ Displaying her pride for the Pirates, Deanna Price, '97, shows the community her talent in the 4th of July parade.

◆ Team picture on pages 202 and 227.



Fordough photo



• **Sasha Veneczel**, '95, concentrates on preparing for a less-than-perfect less-than-long, arduous hours for band members.



Cronk photo



Cronk photo

• **Christina Petersen**, '96, keeps the crowd interested with her enthusiasm. Flags join the pom-poms and cheerleaders for halftime entertainment.

# Brett Fedak

If there was truly one person who could define the word champion, Brett Fedak, '95 would be the one. Helping to lead the Pirates to victories over tough teams like the Brownsburg Bulldogs and Elkhart Blue Blazers, Fedak has proven himself time and time again to be one of the team's most respected leaders. "Winning the semi-state championship and then advancing to the final four," is what Fedak claims to be the peak of his high school basketball career. While in retrospect, "losing the state championship," is what he feels the low point was.

One thing that Brett can't be called is a loser. His full scholarship to the University

of Toledo, a division one school, has justified that. "I'm looking forward to having a really good career there," commented the 6'7" senior.

Outside of Fedak's notable athletic ability and exceptional leadership skills, one thing that

has remained priceless to him is the relationship he has with his fellow teammates. "I really enjoy playing with the team. I love each and every one of them," are a few heartfelt comments that he shared. "I guess that I will never forget about this team," he said. But probably the one person he's sure not to forget is the head coach, Jim East. Brett said, "I owe a lot to Coach East. We have grown to know each other. I will always remember him and will probably never get to repay him."

No one ever said that this man didn't have a positive attitude. When it came time to hit the courts, his outlook was simple, yet desirable. "We just wanted to win and have a positive season so we could advance as far as possible in the tournament."

With the season now over, Fedak has had the time to sit back and think about all of his achievements. He would like to be remembered "as hardworking, classy, and a winner."

◆PATRICK FARABAUGH & NANCY PACKOVSKY

Anything  
Could  
Happen



## Final Four Pull-Out

# To the Dome

Between Sectionals, Regionals, Semi-State and the DAC, the Pirates set aside six months of their lives to put forth an effort that carried them all the way.



The team would be up by 20 in the third quarter, and just skyrocket from there.

◆ Joe Barker, '96

The Boys Basketball team started their season, not during the usual month of November, but many of the members began as early as June and August with summer conditioning.

Senior co-captains Brett Fedak and T.J. Lux gained additional confidence and playing ability through their experiences playing in AAU tournaments. The two sophomores, Jamaal Davis and Donte Price, also gained much experience through summer leagues that proved important during the season. The team started the regular season with a sixth place ranking, that eventually came up to first, and then with a triple overtime loss to Gary Roosevelt, the Bucs moved down to second. "The team would be up by 20 in the third quarter, and just skyrocket from there. It was hard to get excited when you knew the team was going to win, and by a lot," adds Joe Barker, '96.

But even though the games were easy to play, the team held a modest attitude. "At the beginning of the season, the only people who really knew what the team was made of, was the team itself," adds Travis Schmidt, '96. The talent and ability carried the Bucs to an almost entirely undefeated regular season.



◆ Celebrating their victory, the Pirates hold up their sectional prize. This was the third consecutive year the Bucs won the sectional tournament.

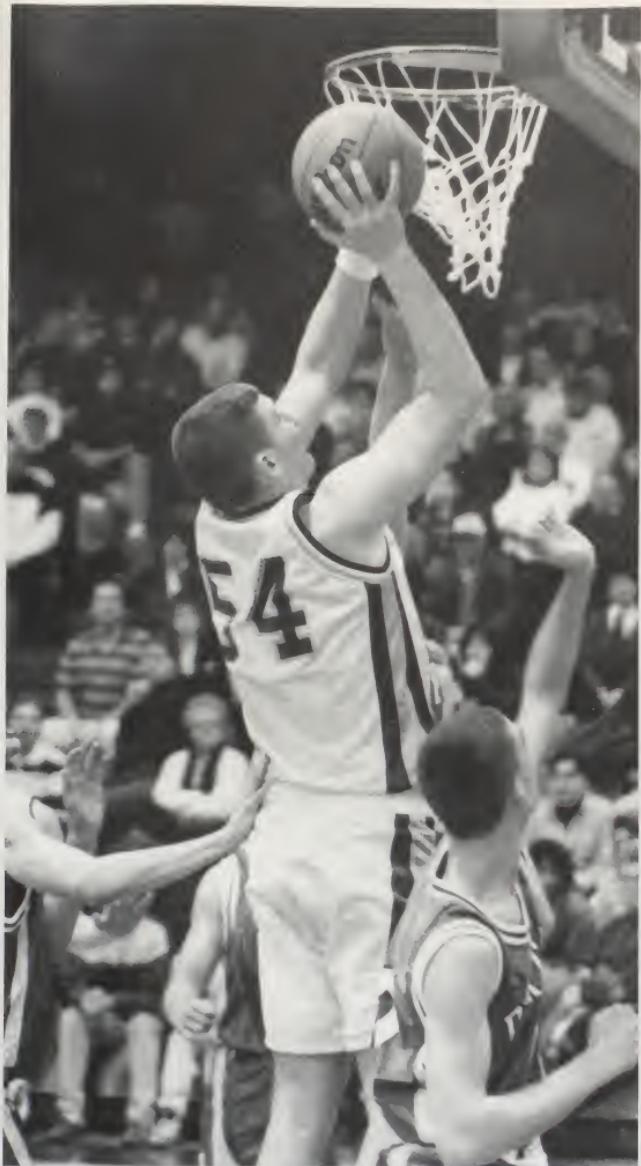


◆ Barreling through the Brownsburg defense, Brett Fedak, '95, tries to go up for a shot. The Judson game was for the semi-state championship.

◆ UPPER RIGHT, Joe Stavitzke, '95, tries to block an Elkhart guard from passing the ball during the first quarter of the first game in the final four.

Munster	85-54	Chesterton	69-20	Hanover Central	85-42
South Bend Riley	91-49	Lake Central	61-41	Lake Station	77-36
Gary Wallace	79-67	Crown Point	67-47	Crown Point	64-37
Andrean	83-64	Hammond Gavit	79-48	EC Central	62-58
North Judson	74-66	LaPorte	66-39	Andrean	91-85
Valpo	72-52	MC Rogers	86-42	Brownsburg	74-69
Kankakee Valley	84-38	Portage	72-38	North Judson	69-54
McCutcheon	76-56	EC Central	74-60	State	
Hobart	77-31	Highland	66-44	Elkhart Central	62-49
Gary Roosevelt	71-81	Lowell	75-48	Ben Davis	57-58

◆ Kimberly Anderson



◆ Team Co-Captain, Brett Fedok, '95, goes up for a dunk during the Portage game. The Bucs won 72-38.



◆ Travis Schmidt, '96, goes up for an assist during the Homecoming game. The theme was "Pirates on a Warpath."



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◆ Ricky Baskin, '96, prepares to receive a pass from team co-captain, T.J. Lux, '95, during the semi-state title game in March.



## To the Dome

For the first time since 1978, the Bucs lead the way for over 4,000 fans to the RCA Dome. Although losing by a point, they still ended up champions.

The road was long and tough, but the Bucs stayed determined and played with their hearts as well as their bodies. They never gave up on their dream to play in the RCA Dome, and in that dome they played on Saturday, March 25, 1995.

A trip to the State Finals was almost inevitable, or deserved to say the least. The pressure that the Pirates faced all year, being ranked number six to number one and finally number two in the state, only inspired the team to make it all the way, and try to win the state title. "Going to state wasn't just an individual goal, but the whole team wanted to advance as far as possible," adds Brett Fedak, '95, co-captain.

The fourteen players, along with four coaches, a trainer, and a packed bus left Merrillville on Friday morning. The last MHS team to make it to the Final Four was the 1978 team coached by Jim Vermillion. That team lost in the first round of play by a mere one point. Coincidentally, this year's team played Elkhart Central first, which was also a team participating in the '78 state finals. However, the Bucs defeated Elkhart during the first game and advanced to the championship game against the number one team, the Ben Davis Giants. "The excitement of playing in the RCA Dome and seeing 4,000 Merrillville fans are things we will always remember about the season," says East. The Bucs came to a good start, leading Ben

Davis throughout most of the game. The Giants' size and height posed a problem inside for the them. The Pirates only shot three free throws, which is the biggest free throw disparity in Final Four history. Joe Stavitzke, '95, and Jamaal Davis, '97, scored 43 points between them, with Stavitzke setting the Final Four record for five 3 pointers.

During the last moments of the game, the tension between the two teams was thick. Ben Davis was up by only four points, and with a last attempt to come away with the State title, T.J. Lux, '95, shot a 3 pointer to make the final score, Ben Davis 58, Merrillville 57. Lux also came away from the game as the 1995 Trester Award Winner.

Anyone would be lying if they said that they weren't a little disappointed about the team not winning the state title, but the pride that the team and community felt for their dedication and determination was enough to overpower the sadness. Despite the loss, the team was able to accomplish all their goals and end up being proud knowing that they have done something that no other basketball team in MHS history has ever done. "Playing in the Final Four will make us a part of history for years to come," says Kevin Erny, '95. Although Ben Davis may have the state title, the Pirates, with their class, dedication, and ability, are definitely number one in Merrillville.

◆ KIMBERLY ANDERSON



**66**  
The excitement  
of playing in  
the RCA Dome  
and seeing  
4,000 Mer-  
rillville fans are  
things we will  
always remem-  
ber about the  
season.

◆ Jim East

◆ Team members celebrate as the North Judson game comes to a close with a final score of 69-54. The four fingers represent that Merrillville is in the Final Four. This is the first time in nearly 15 years since MHS has made the trip to Indy.

◆ Collecting his souvenir, Jamaal Davis, '97, takes his turn cutting down part of the net after the Lafayette Semi-state.



Faribough photo



Faribough photo



Expressing their disappointment, Stacey Eish, '97, Kelli Moore, '96, Shannon Juselyn, '96, and Nan Molerich, '95, all watch as the clock runs out on the state finals.

Faribough photo  
◆ Addressing the media, Eric Culp, '95, takes a few moments to talk about the North Judson game. Towards the end, Culp was an essential player.



# T.J. Lux

An inspiration to many, and a true leader of his time, T.J. Lux, '95, has much to be proud of. After helping the Pirates through a winning season, Lux was awarded the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award. When asked what he thought made him a team leader, T.J. replied, "I work hard during games and at practice. The rest of the guys kind of looked up to me because of my experience."

Despite his own personal achievements, Lux still thinks of the team first, by saying,

"Winning semi-state and playing Elkhart," as the height of his career. While the low point, he said, would be losing to Ben Davis by a point in the championship. What the teams co-captain's

thoughts about the team and Coach East? T.J. says that, "I truly care about all of the team and I will always remember them." He also felt that Coach East, "is a great coach and he made me a better player, I owe him a lot."

Lux has much to look forward to considering he has a full scholarship to Northern Illinois. Both T.J. and Brett Fedak received their scholarship in November at a press conference organized by both East and Janis Qualizza, the Athletic Department director.

Always thinking of others, Lux claimed his parents were his inspiration. Which may be why his goals throughout high school were, "To keep on improving every year and everyday to make it to the dome, and win state." And now that it's all over, that's one of his many goals that have become a reality.

◆ AMANDA RICHARDSON

◆ Center and team co-captain, T.J. Lux, '95, battles a North Judson player for a rebound during the semi-state title game on March 18. At the end of the state championship game, Lux, with his parents and sister beside him, received the Arthur L. Trester award for his mental attitude.

◆ William Phillips, '96, takes his turn at the free throw line in the fourth quarter of the North Judson game of the Lafayette Semi-State.

## Anything Could Happen



♦ Joe Moore, '97, takes his time returning the serve of a Valpo rival. The Fireflies were toppled by the Vikings with a score of 3-2.



# Match Point

Topping all past records, four players; Rivera, Lux, Boedecker, and Lenart all made the trip to the state finals



**This year determination has been the key word.**

♦ Kristen Sommers, '95

The dream of making it to state came true for varsity tennis players T.J. Lux and Sid Rivera, both '95. After three hour practices six days a week, hard work and determination finally paid off. Rivera's overall feeling was that "Myself and my partner were ecstatic, being the first time a Merrillville team has ever made it." Rivera and Lux finished 8th for doubles.

But don't forget about the rest of the team. They will be losing their foundation and will have to practice hard and play together as a team.

The girls got off to a great start, but after the first few matches, they began to get their act together. Co-Captain, Kristen Sommers, '95, described the team's overall attitude, "It's been a long time since Merrillville has performed well at tournament time so this year determination has been the key word." Their biggest opponents are Valparaiso and Andrean to advance in sectionals. But when asked about how the season is going varsity player Pam Ruschak, '96, said, "It didn't start out

the way we expected, we lost to a couple of teams we had planned on beating, but I think that we've come together now and are going to finish in good standings."

Shelly Boedecker and Michelle Lenart, both '95, made the trip to Indy for the girls. Lenart feels, "It is quite an accomplishment to get this far." She feels that it all came together for them around sectionals.

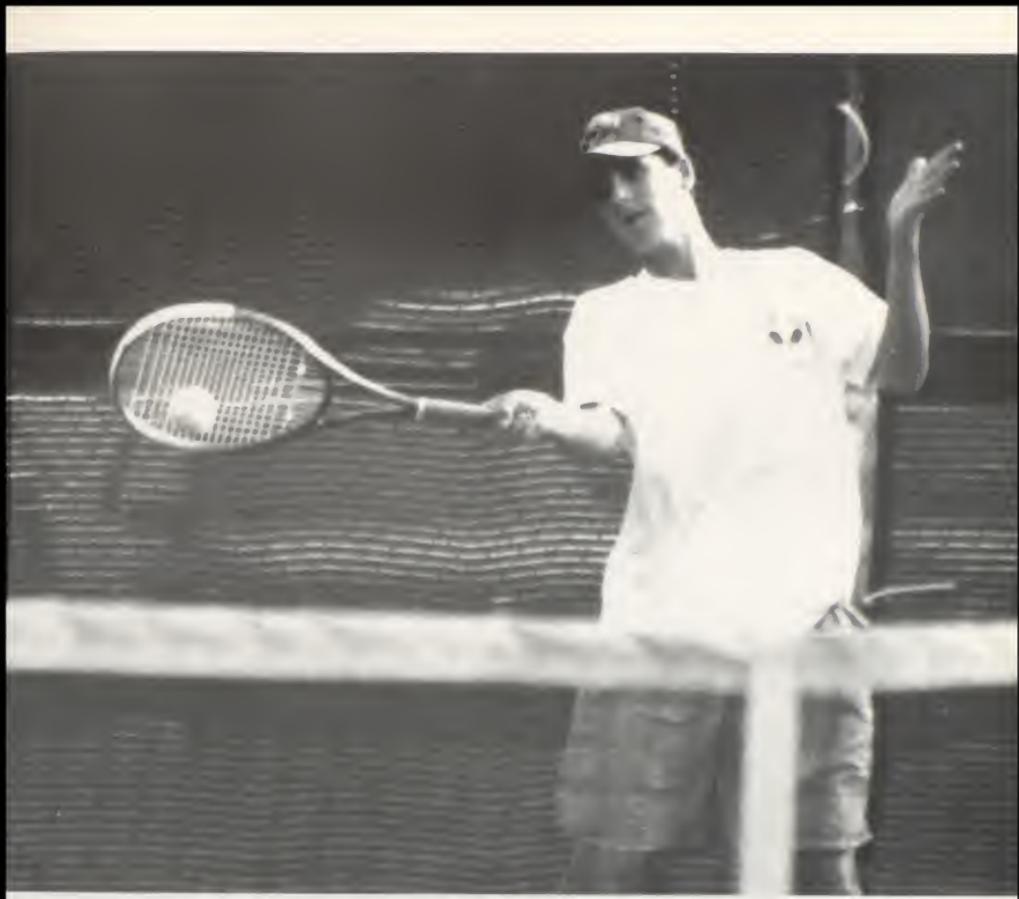
Coach Dave Zimmerman seems to agree. Zimmerman, spends much time with the teams in the off season reestablishing a good foundation for a talented team. He has also worked hard to establish a good off season program that includes Pierce and Harrison Middle Schools. He feels that, "in order to build a good program you need a good feeder-program." The girl's were ranked 6th at the beginning of the season.

Lux, Rivera, Boedecker, and Lenart all have made it down to Indy.

♦ DEBRE ELIZONDO

Anything  
Could  
Happen

Boys	MC Rogers	5-0	East Chicago	4-1	
Lake Central	5-0	Highland	4-1	Crown Point	2-3
Plymouth	2-3	Lowell	3-2	MC Rogers	4-1
Valpo	2-2	Munster	0-5	LaPorte	0-5
Chesterton	5-0	Andrean	3-2	Valpo	2-3
Hobart	5-0	Hobart	4-1	Portage	5-0
MC Esten	4-1	MC Rogers	3-2	Chesterton	4-1
Valpo	2-3	Portage	4-1	LaPorte	4-1
Crown Point	3-2	Birgs	4-1	Hobart	5-0
LaPorte	3-2	LaPorte	5-0	Hobart	5-0
Portage	0-5	Lowell	5-0	Valpo	2-3
Griffith	5-0	Griffith	3-2		
Andrean	3-2	Andrean	2-3		



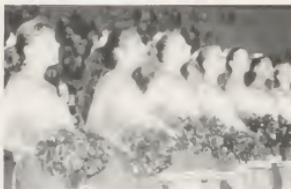
Smashing the ball over the net, Cheryl Gonzalez returns the serve from a Crown Point opponent. In her free time, Gonzalez served as senior class secretary.

©Faubough photo  
Pam Rusdak, '96, tries her best to topple a Griffith rival. Rusdak proved herself as one of the strongest members of the team as the season progressed.

Josh Larson, '96, takes aim and swings at the ball before it has the chance to bounce on his side of the court. Larson was one of many returning letterman on the team this season.

◆ Team pictures on pages 189 and 198.

◆ The pom-poms wait for the music to start during a halftime routine. They performed in halftime shows during football and basketball seasons.



# Groove Thing

With outstanding co-captains Bewley, Packovski, and Ramirez, the pom-pom squad had a fun-filled season and a successful time in competition as well.

Summer camp, band camp, football season, basketball season, plus competitions? What a season!! The pom-pom squad was plenty busy this year. After a week long tryout in April, this squad of 28 got right to business.

In late July, the squad travelled down to Purdue for a week of learning routines, performing routines, and getting acquainted. "Camp was a blast!" comments Abby Vivo, '95, excitedly. Even though many of the girls had fun and felt more comfortable around each other, there was plenty of practice expected of them. This year, the squad brought home numerous awards including the Showmanship Award, Technical Growth Award, Spirit Stick, T.E.A.M. Award, and the Circle of Winners-Silver Award.

Not long after coming home from Lafayette, the squad was off to another camp. This time it was band camp. For two weeks straight, the girls had to learn drills that improved their marching technique. Also during camp, the drills were learned for the halftime show. Christina Gargano, '96, comments on the experience, "Besides getting a good tan from the scorching rays, it was a lot of strenuous

work, but people said you can tell by our halftime show." Halftime was a new experience for many people. Besides using the pom-poms, hoops were introduced to add an extra effect. "It was different marching with the band for the whole halftime show, but I liked it because the routines were easier and we were outside," said Deanna Shonk, '98.

Basketball season was soon underway. Besides performing pregame and halftime, competitions were also on the agenda. This year a new association was formed, the Indiana High School Dance Team Association, IHSDTA. After competing at various local sites, regionals and state were now in the outlook. With a third place in the dance division and a fifth place in the pom division, the poms qualified for state in Fishers, Indiana. Out of approximately 40 schools, the poms took home a ninth place trophy in dance and a tenth place in pom. "I am very proud of the squad and how far we have come this year. Our season is extremely long with a lot of performances. They've handled the stress very well," said Marianne Oates, coach.

◆ NANCY PACKOVSKI

It was a lot of  
strenuous  
work, but  
people said  
you can tell by  
our halftime  
show.

◆ Christina  
Gargano, '96

◆ Team pictures on page 187.



♦ Kelly Heilman, '03, leads the pom-pom squad into a dance routine. The poms had to make cuts before being able to perform.

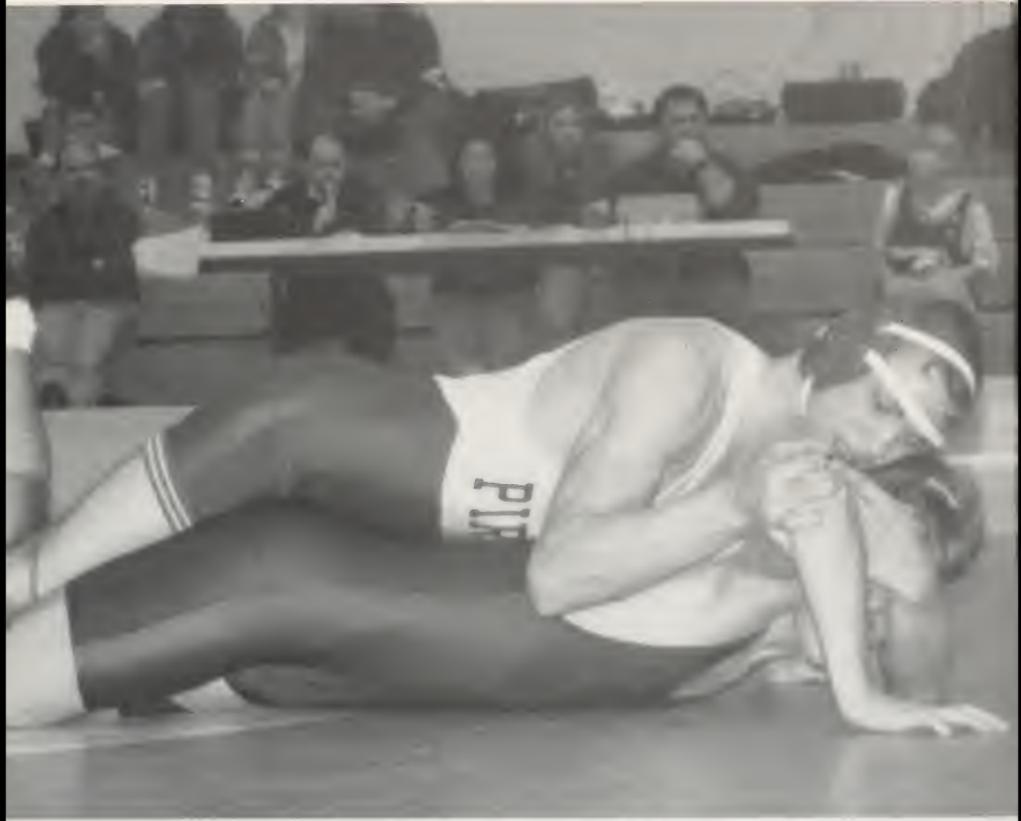


♦ Elisabeth Black, '97, performs during halftime of one of the pep rallies. All winter sports teams and also all academic teams were recognized at this time.

♦ Pom-pom co-captain Danielle Ramirez, '05, entertains MHS fans during halftime. The poms ranked highly in many local competitions.

Anything  
Could  
**Happen**

Lindough photo



♦Jeremy Schwandt, '96, puts in a wing as he attempts to turn a Chederton opponent. This was Schwandt's third season on the varsity team.



♦Jason Berk, '95, circles with his opponent waiting for a chance to shoot for a takedown. Berk, one of the only upperclassmen, was an experienced member of the team.



♦Happily walking away from yet another victory, an exhausted Mike Milesell, '95, takes a break. Milesell, one of the team's outstanding members, was seventh in the state.

♦ Jared Tabor, '96, sprawls as he attempts to complete his takedown. Tabor, along with Mike Mikesell, '95, acted as this year's co-captains.



## Pin Point

Despite all the dedication, hard work, and effort by wrestling team members, the year ended only average because of the lack of mat experience.

Complete dedication was the key to success on the wrestling team, especially from co-captains Mike Mikesell and Jared Tabor. The team has practiced anywhere from fifteen to twenty hours a week, with practice often ranging from in the morning before school to late workouts in the evening and after tenth period. Coach Chris Joll, and assistant coaches Mark Rosenbaum and Chris Rassbach used these training periods as complete workouts, consisting of stretching, warm-ups, running, weight lifting, practicing positions, and plays.

This season, the team was at a slight disadvantage, partially because they had only a few seniors, and many underclassmen, mainly freshmen. Ryan Valentine, '96, said, "There were a lot of underclassmen joining, and a lack of mat experience. The team's outcome in the end came out strong though, where expected, but also had some weak spots."

"It was an average year. We beat the teams we were supposed to, and lost to the ones that had our weak

spots covered," Jared Tabor, '96, explains.

The team's highlight though was when heavyweight, Mike Mikesell, '95, and senior captain, made it down to state, and competed, but unfortunately, lost.

Both Mikesell and Tabor went down to Market Square Arena, Tabor lost in the first round to Nick Hull from Lawrence Central. Mikesell, on the other hand was a little bit luckier. Winning his first round on February 10, he had high hopes of continuing on to state competition. Unfortunately, those hopes shattered when he broke his 43-0 record and ended his high school wrestling career with a loss in the second round. Still he managed to place seventh in the state.

Next year's outcome should be a more positive one, with ten returning varsity wrestlers equipped with more experience.

All in all, each match whether won or lost, became complete with effort and hard work.

♦ LAURIE WOJTCOWICZ



**The team's outcome in the end came out strong though, where expected.**

**♦ Ryan Valentine, '96**

Anything Could Happen

Hammond Cieri	41-21	Crown Point	43-22
Goshen	50-24	M.C. Rogers	56-24
Bishop Noll	68-6	Chesterton	33-31
Lawrence	29-24	Valparaiso	21-40
Brabec	72-0	Pean	16-39
Lowell	61-12	N. Newtow	64-6
E.C. Central	48-24	Plymouth	56-9
New Castle	21-41	LaPorte	27-20
Portage	25-31	Hobart	35-30

♦ Team pictures on pages 194 -195.

◆ Kelley Jenkins, '97, concentrates on perfecting her beam routine. Jenkins, along with Amy Sopczak, '96, advanced to compete in the state finals.



# Balancing Act

Despite many injuries that could have possibly affected their overall performance, the gymnastics team proved just how strong they really are.

They may break the laws of gravity with their outrageous flips and twists, but when it comes to breaking bones, the girls gymnastics team takes it all. They seem to be almost stuck in an annual ritual due to the amount of injuries acquired last year. The team's season looked grim. But the girls pulled off an excellent season despite the many injuries that occurred throughout it.

One of the most serious afflictions came to Elena Malave, '98. Malave had to undergo knee surgery to repair damage she sustained during a practice, which put her out for the season. Malave, who was expected to be one of the team's star players, had this to say, "It bothered me a lot because I didn't know how far I could have gone and whether or not I'd be able to come back."

Kristin Lucia, '95, co-captain, received an ankle sprain while cheerleading, but recovered earlier in the season and was soon able to compete again. Similarly, early in the season Amy Sopczak, '96, also managed to recuperate from an injury she

had acquired from a fall during practice.

All in all, the team had much to brag about, considering the extreme conditions. The team placed an impressive second in the Second Annual Merrillville "Pirate Pride" Invitational, and second in the Layfayette Jefferson Invitational. They also took a respectable third in the Duneland Athletic Conference. The girls took third place over all in Sectionals, and also took third place in Regionals.

In addition to the excellent job they did in both sectionals and regionals, three of the talented team members got to further their chances of success at the state finals. Co-captain Amy Sopczak, '96 and Kelley Jenkins, '97, both went to the state finals. Alisa Zak, '95, joined them as an alternative competitor. Although neither Jenkins nor Zak placed, Sopczak got the opportunity to claim an outstanding fifth place on floor, and sixth all-around. Sopczak had this to say about the experience, "I was excited, but I wish I would have done better."

◆ AMANDA RICHARDSON

◆ Co-captain Kristin Lucia, '95, accepts an award from co-head coach Bill Roberts. The team received 2nd all-around in the 2nd Annual Pirate Pride Invitational.



It bothered me  
because I  
didn't know  
whether or not  
I'd be able to  
come back.  
◆ Elena Malave,  
'98

◆ Team picture on page 194.



Fordough photo



◆ Pleased with her performance, Amy Sopczak, '96, gives a big smile. Sopczak placed an impressive 6th all-around of the state finals.



◆ Enthusiastically completing her floor routine, Lyndi Leglman, '97, strives for a perfect score.

M.C. Rogers	98.55 - 82.55
Lowell	100.80 - 78.20
Hobart	95.35 - 92.80
LaPorte	102.95 - 91.30
Chesterton	105.05 - 110.50
Portage	103.70 - 108.15
Valparaiso	103.75 - 105.30
Crown Point	104.70 - 73.80

2nd in Lafayette Jeff Invitational  
2nd in Pirate Pride Invitational  
3rd in D.A.C. Championships  
3rd in Sectionals  
3rd in Regionals

STATE FINALS  
Amy Sopczak      5th on Floor  
                        6th All Around

Anything  
Could  
Happen

◆ Serving for unity, members of the varsity softball team join hands at the beginning and ending of each inning.



# Heading Home

**"A Decade of Domination."** The theme for the year was perfect with the Lady Pirates racking up both a conference and sectional title.

**I really thought we'd go all the way. The dedication was there in each one of us.**

◆ Jamie Santeramo, '96



"Practice, practice, and more practice. Monday-Friday, and sometimes even on Saturday." Dedication, faith, and teamwork is what it took to play softball for MHS. The girls found that out the hard way this past season. The team did extremely well according to Laurie Maness, '95, who said, "We could have gone all the way, but we had to get over some very tough obstacles first."

The Lady Pirates took a very positive attitude when it came to tackling those obstacles too. After making it past teams like Griffith, Portage, and Highland, they finally took their fall in the regional championship against Lake Central. Disappointed and teary-eyed seven seniors walked off the field at the end of the seventh inning, none of them even taking the time to look back at the 7-0 scoreboard that kept reminding them of their loss. "I really thought we'd go all the way. The dedication was there in each one of us," comments Jamie Santeramo, '96.

The highlight of the season for most of the girls was winning the DAC, Duneland Athletic Conference. "A Decade of Domination" was the theme printed on the back of the

shirts made by the athletic department. For the tenth year now they've tackled those obstacles to lead them to the Conference title.

"I'm very proud of what we've accomplished. I feel that everyone has given it their all," said Santeramo.

The softball team gets along just like a family. "The girls are close-knit both on and off the field," comments Coach Pat Mulloy. The loss of seven very dedicated seniors will most definitely have an effect on next years team. Mulloy commented that, "We have a really good JV team coming up."

"When I look back at it all, it's not that game against LC that I'll remember, or the upset with Munster that will come to my mind. It's my fellow teammates and the coaches whose memories I'll treasure. I've had four great years on the field and never in my life would I give those times up," commented MVP Leah Frink, '95.

Even though the girls' post season came to an untimely end in early June, some of them will be playing again together pretty soon. Coach Bob Bergeson is traveling with them to compete over in Belgium this summer.

◆ SHANNON BUKOVAC & PATRICK FARABAUGH

Anything  
Could  
Happen

Andrean 1	9-1	MC Rogers	6-3	Shenandoah	1-0
Andrean 2	2-0	Crown Point	1-0	Twin Lakes	11-10
Crown Point	2-1	Valpo	6-0	S. Bend LaSalle	3-4
Bishop Noll	8-0	Portage	1-2	Penn	7-5
Valpo	8-2	Munster	1-3	Lowell	0-1
Chesterton	4-3	LaPorte	8-0	Griffith	1-0
Portage	1-0	Lake Central	2-3	Andrean	1-0
LaPorte	3-2	Hobart	8-0	Highland	1-0
Hobart	6-1	Boone Grove	0-2	Lake Central	7-0
Chesterton	2-0	MC Rogers	8-0		





♦ Ready to head for home, Leslie Molerich, '98, looks for her earliest chance to steal third in the Lake Central game. Later the Lady Pirates lost to LC in the regional championship 7-0.



♦ It's a hit!! Megan Moloney, '95 takes a swing as fans look on behind the fence. Moloney, one of seven seniors, will travel to Belgium over the summer to play softball.



♦ Making the cut, shortstop Laurie Moness, '95, receives the ball from first baseman Leah Frink, '95 during the fifth inning of the Lake Central season finale.

♦ Team pictures on page 197.

◆ Mary Johnson, '98, protects the ball from an approaching Chesterton opponent.

Although they put forth much effort, the JV was not as successful as the varsity.

◆ Warren Conner and Terry Zapinski, both '95, warm up before a game. This

is the first season soccer has been a fall sport.



Fordough photo



Fordough photo

BOYS		GIRLS	
LaPorte	5-0	LaPorte	10-0
Gavit	6-2	Chesterton	3-2ff
Chesterton	2-6	Valparaiso	1-0
Valparaiso	0-3	Griffith	3-1
Bishop Noll	3-3	Andrean	0-1
E.C. Central	2-0	Bishop Noll	4-1
Lake Central	1-6	Crown Point	2-0
Crown Point	2-4	Munster	3-0
Munster	2-2	Hobart	2-0
Hobart	3-2	Portage	1-2
Andrean	4-7	Lake Central	0-2
Portage	2-1	CMA	4-0
CMA	0-6	Bishop Noll	8-1
Crown Point	0-3	Lake Central	0-1

Anything  
Could  
Happen



◆ Varsity soccer coach, Jim Thompson tries to give an inspirational message during half-time. Thompson felt the team could have done better.



# Goal Mining

**Team unity lacked on the boys side until the Portage game when everything came together. For the girls, starting a new sport proved to be rough.**

"Is that the boys cross country team running?" people asked as the boys painfully yet spiritually ran around the school, asking themselves what would be next. No, that's the boys soccer team, coached by Tim Thompson, and they were defeated again. According to a lot of people, including Warren Conner, '95, "They didn't do too well. We had a lot more talent than showed in the record, and we didn't come through in important games." Mike Radiceski, '96, agrees. "We should've done better. It can't be an individual effort; everyone is important."

The whole season wasn't bad, though. In fact, near the end of the season, something happened... something the team had never done the whole season- they played as a team! That's right-at the Portage game. If you know a soccer player, you heard about it without a doubt. Hank Pimentel, '96, said the game was "unbelievable. I never had such a good feeling in my life!" Radiceski added, "We just went out and kicked butt!"

Even though the girls team didn't have to run as much as the boys, they still had a hard workout. For the first

year as a team, they had an excellent season. Even though there were a few difficulties at early practices, the team really came together for the first game to whip LaPorte. Jill Matusik, '98, said, "We did really well for the first year. However, we didn't do as well towards the end of the season." In contrast, Coach Bob Bergeson bragged, "They improved every game; they played and overcame a lot of problems they had at the beginning, while learning a lot from each other."

There was a big highlight for the girls' team as well. Picture this: It's the second half of the game, Merrillville trailing Chesterton 0-2. Then, out of nowhere the team starts working together, and in a matter of 15 minutes they scored three goals, winning the game. The excitement was breathtaking. "The girls had a great season and I'm really proud of them," said assistant coach Randy Conner. Bergeson concluded, "Next year's team will be better than this year's. They learned a lot from each other. They know more of what to expect from other teams. There are great things ahead for the girls soccer team."

◆ CANDICE PARKER



**We had a lot more talent than showed in the record, and we didn't come through in important games.**

◆ Warren Conner, '95

◆ David Rainey, '98, tries to maneuver his way through Crown Point's defense to score a goal for Merrillville. Merrillville was defeated 4-2.

◆ Brian Hogan, '95, along with Adam Cresbaum, '95, and the rest of the infield, gather at the mound to discuss an upcoming play.



# Beating Odds

It took a decade and a lot of determination from a team of almost all juniors to rally at the end and earn a sectional title.

You're sitting in the stands game after game. You sit there watching your Merrillville Pirates, through just as many wins as losses. You've been just as enduring as some members of the team themselves. Just when things have started to look as bad as they have ever been, something happens. Something almost unbelievable. For the first time in a decade, you've seen an outstanding, almost shut-out game against Hanover Central to lead MHS to a sectional title. It's breath-taking. Who could have ever imagined that this would have been possible. Back at the beginning of the season, not even the skipper, Fenton Macke, would have believed it. After losing one of his pitchers to expulsion, and the other to a state basketball final, Macke had nothing but bad thoughts going through his head. But, nevertheless, he remained positive around the team of almost all juniors. He knew that their only chance would come if he could turn his ball club around in sectionals.

And that he did. Merrillville-7, River Forest-1. A pair of three-run innings and the pitching of Dave Kamano, '96, shot MHS right into the heart of the sectional finals. Kamano more than

went the distance when he only allowed three hits-none after the fourth inning. That was the turning point. Ryan Miller, '96, even said that, "Our season had its ups and downs, but we didn't play as a team until sectionals."

Brian Hogan, '95, along with the rest of the team knew that once they got past River Forest, Hanover wouldn't be that tough of a challenge. After all, according to Brad Schulte, '96, it only took "One week and six games," for "Brett Fedak, Dave Kamano and I (to throw) 4 shutouts, 1 no-hitter and three 2-hitters." Actually pulling off an upset, Hanover topped Crown Point in a previous game which sent them on a one way collision course with the now sectional finalist, Merrillville. Brett Fedak, '95 gave HC nothing but grief when he only allowed three runs and two walks. But that was the least of the Wildcats problems considering the scoring spree Schulte, Adam Cresbaum, '95, and Matt Siecker, '96, brought on in the second inning. Following that, Marino Stath, '96, took a single off a wild pitch. Final score, Merrillville-14, Hanover Central-0, what a sight to see.

◆ PATRICK FARABAUGH

During one week  
and six games,  
**Brett Fedak,**  
**Dave Kamano,**  
**and I threw 4**  
**shutouts, 1 no-**  
**hitter, and three**  
**2-hitters.**

◆ **Brad Schulte,**  
**'96**

◆ Team pictures on pages 195 and 196.

Anything  
Could  
Happen



•Brian Schieder,  
'95, catches a strike  
after an opposing  
Lake Central player  
misses. The Indians  
defeated the Pirates  
in a very exhausting  
game.



•Brett Felsk, '95, extends his mitt to catch a  
Monster opponent's foul ball. Felsk played  
pitcher as well as first base.



•Third baseman, Richard Deel, '95,  
prepares himself for a possible line drive. This  
was Deel's first year on varsity.

Freshough photo

◆ Trying his hardest, Ryan Parkock, '95, edges in front of an opponent. Parkock also played varsity football.



# Building Speed

Topping records from several years back, what was thought to have been a bad year became one of the best the track teams ever seen.



Overall, I'm impressed with the team's performance and proud to say I'm a member of it.

◆ Tyson Owen,

'95

What do running, hurdling, and throwing all have in common? ...Okay, time's up. They're all part of what the boys and girls track teams competed in.

This past season was the best finish for the teams in several years. Both coaches and athletes alike felt that it went extremely well. "We have competed against forty-eight schools and won forty-four times," commented boys coach Ken Coudret.

"Overall, I'm impressed with the team's performance and proud to say I'm a member of it," commented Tyson Owen, '95. The greatest accomplishment of the team as a whole was placing second in the Duneland Athletic Conference according to Coudret.

All of the athletes on the team felt that the contribution everyone made was helpful to the team. "I think since everyone tries their best, they're all important," stated April Pratscher '96. "If we don't score it brings the whole team down, so everyone's contribution is important."

Chris Demure, Andy Belush, Ja-

son Simpson, Joe Foster, Jason Miller, all '96, and Owen were the team members who advanced to regionals. Throughout the regular season Owen scored the most points. He competed in the long jump, 100m, 200m, and the four by one relay. "I'm satisfied with what I've done," he commented.

Pratscher; Amy Geruska, '95; Sonya Mitchell '96; Marianne Maj, '96, Liz Simunic, '95; and Tayona Shadwick, '98, were the team members on the girls team that advanced to regional action. "My greatest accomplishment this year was making sectionals and advancing to regionals. That was my aim this season in track," said Pratcher.

This past season was not just for placing first or winning titles. The girls track team did something that has never been done in the past. With an idea from Geruska and her mother, the team started a Run-A-Thon for the Muscular Dystrophy of Northwest Indiana. It lasted from March 20th to April 20th. The team raised approximately three hundred dollars for the foundation.

◆ Matt Navarro

◆ Far ahead of all other competitors, Sonya Mitchell, '96, takes the lead at the Crown Point meet. Mitchell, Marianne Maj, '96, Liz Simunic, '95, and Tayona Shadwick, '98, were members of the relay team which placed fifth at the state meet and set a new school record.

◆ Team pictures on page 198.



Fordough photo



♦ Making her mark, Angie Crumrie, '97, prepares to land feet first in the sand at the end of her long jump.



♦ Clearing the pole, Joe Fesler, '96, smoothly glides up and over. Fesler, along with Jason Simpson, '96 was one of the few to compete in the pole vault.

BOYS	MHS	42	
Chesterton	70-57	Crown Point	37
Crown Point	76-51	Griffith	43
Highland Invite		Munster	33
116 L Champions	MHS	64 1/2	
Valpo	41-86	Outdoor	
LaPorte	66-61	Portage	31-87
Wallace Invite	129	MC Rogers	43-75
L Champions		Hobart	77-43
Hobart	105-21	Wallace Invite	
MC Rogers	88-39	Valpo	49-69
Portage	54-73	LaPorte	67-51
Sectional	2nd	Crown Point	71-47
DAC	2nd	Highland Invite	3rd
GIRLS	Chesterton	53-65	
Indoor		DAC	4th
Lake Central	72	Sectionals	4th
Highland	12		

Anything  
Could  
Happen

◆ Looking for a hole  
in one, Matt  
Habrych, '96,  
perfects his dive at  
the Andrew meet.

◆ Brian Vack,  
'95, concentrates on  
practicing her swing  
at the Broadmoor  
Golf Course. The  
Broadmoor was used  
as the home course  
for both MHS golf  
teams.



Fordough photo



Fordough photo



Fordough photo

◆ Matt Habrych, '96, follows through on his swing while looking on towards the green.

◆ Missy Deibis, '95, tees off at one of the many home meets held at the Broadmoor. While the girls season was in the fall, the boys were in the spring.



♦Eric Culp, '95, looks on as teammate Matt Habruch, '96, puts the ball for par. Later in the season, Culp was named MVP.



## Heavy Load

**By trying to fill the void created by lost players, both teams found themselves going farther than they thought, one even captured a sectional title.**

After a while, the 60 pound bag on your back seems to just get heavier and heavier. You could at least stand it for the first three miles but now, now you could care less about knocking that little white ball in the hole, you just want to take some weight off your shoulders, literally.

Between dissension within the team and different little cliques, the girls season didn't get off to the start that was planned. Members of the golf team needed to push themselves further in order to make the best of things. They needed to prove something to their coach for all the times he had them running around the putting green like a bunch of little lost mice. They wanted his respect. And as the season progressed, they got it, along with a third place in the Dunceland conference. Quite an outstanding accomplishment for such a young team.

"It's hard to really get yourself motivated towards a sport that doesn't have much public appreciation," comments Brandi Vucko, '95. "You have to be a very self-determined person with a very strong sense of self satisfaction." Vucko along with Missy Dobis, '95, were the two returning lettermen to the team.

Not everything was so downrooted though. Most of the returning players felt they had an advantage considering that they had the grown to know their

coach. "We really got a better knowledge of what he expected from us as each season past," commented Dobis. "It really made us a stronger, better, and more focused team in my opinion."

Following the path the ladies blazed, or at leased cleared, the boys still ran into a few detours of their own. Like the females, the guys only had two returning senior lettermen as well. Eric Culp and Jon Rowe, both '95, had to serve as team leaders since other essential players from last season didn't return. "The players who came back improved, but I really believe that the team would have been a lot better if all the eligible players could have played," said Culp. But by staying focused, they did manage to pull off something that has slipped out of the Pirates reach for over five years. They took the sectional crown and advanced to regional competition. Practicing everyday after school for an hour and a half finally paid off when they got to hold the trophy up and show off their prize. Surprisingly, the guys didn't stop there. Culp even came 5 strokes away from the state meet, earning him the MVP tilt and best mental attitude. With everything now over, it's a much lighter load the golfers have to tote around. A few books is nothing compared to a bag filled with iron clubs and a bunch of little wooden tees.

♦PATRICK FARABAUGH



**The team would have been a lot better if all the eligible players could have played.**

♦Eric Culp, '95

Anything Could Happen

	Girls		Boys
K. Vucko	228-205	Valpo	203-196
Lowell	212-238	Marquette	226-218
Concordia	230-248	Hobart	207
Munster	223-183	Greenwood	183-182
MC Rogers	193-197	Portage	200-197
Bishop Holt	199-228	Haweaer	189-189
Crown Point	205-229	LaPorte	192-243
		Lake Central	193-215

♦Team pictures on pages 187 and 196.

◆ Team unity was one of the key elements to the Lady Pirates season. Some felt that they were lacking in that area though.



# Tough Times

Although this season may have seemed like a regression from those of the past, the Lady Pirates went farther than what was ever expected of them.



I feel our team  
didn't perform  
as well as we  
were definitely  
capable of  
doing.

◆Sonya  
Mitchell, '96

The Lady Pirates basketball season was not a fun filled carnival. The only thing close in relation to a carnival was that the season was like a roller coaster. If you asked Stephanie Valse '97, about the season that is what she would say. The girls basketball team opened on November 11 against Munster with a win. Beating Munster was not their only win, their record was 11-10.

They ended their season losing to Crown Point in sectionals. In the first sectional game the Pirates beat Hobart 49-46. The second game was not as successful as they had hoped it would be. They lost to Crown Point 44-14. Although the loss was great, the team did achieve something they hadn't done before in a long time. This is the first sectional final that the Lady Pirates have advanced to since 1989. Behind every team there are coaches. Head coach Michael Pritchett was assisted by Lori Dust. Another difference was that there was only one senior, Lori Modglin, '95. Pritchett thought "The season didn't go as well as I had planned. We had some early season distractions and some inju-

ries. The team then had to rely on a few underclassmen, and it took its toll. All in all it turned out well." Sonya Mitchell said, "I feel our team didn't performed as well as we were definitely capable of doing."

Not only did Pritchett feel they could have performed better but so did some of the players. Some important elements seemed to have been missing, mainly dedication and leadership. Pritchett felt the girls were not as dedicated as he wanted them to be. Not only was leadership missing, in Pritchett's opinion, but it also made this season different from the last. Pritchett said "Last year the team had more upperclassmen and a couple of leaders stepped forward. This year, the team was younger than I expected and no one seemed to want to take that step forward and lead by example."

Although the season didn't go as well as expected, Pritchett coached the Lady Pirates to 11 wins with many highlights. Their highest scoring was against Hammond Gavit with 92 points.

◆TRACY PARKER

◆Caroline Froder, '97, goes up for the ball in the first game of sectionals. The Lady Pirates defeated the Hobart Erieckes 49-46.



Lodough photo



©Graig...Graig...Good!!! Ronda Price, '96, goes up for a two point shot as her teammates, and twin sister Rachel watch.



Lodough photo

Munster	64-40	Crown Point	33-57
Gavitt	92-33	Hobart	51-46
Roosevelt	83-52	Low Wallace	48-49
E.C. Central	40-79	Valparaiso	18-69
LaPorte	52-51	West Side	38-57
Andrean	59-44	Calumet	71-46
Chesterton	52-59	Michigan City	49-46
Portage	39-54		SECTIONALS
Highland	40-48		
N. Judson	44-49	Hobart	49-46
Southmont	59-56	Crown Point	14-44
North Knox	45-56		

Anything  
Could  
Happen

# COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE BETTER

PEOPLE

◆ Grouped together from the first day to the last few moments before commencement, we learn not only about math and science, but about each other. Making new friends every step of the way is just one of the many things we'll remember MHS for. Looking back, we'll all realize that things

**COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE BETTER**

than they are right now.

◆ Mike Guermey, '95, does his own little dance at football Homecoming. For students, the dance was a time to have fun with friends, and enjoy the night.



◆ Shelly Beedecker, '95, stands at the finish line of a cross country meet, waiting to see who would win. Rich Staziski, '95, finished first expand Andrew.





Fordough photo



◆ Robin Stupor, '96; Ben Chen, '97; Corrie Sullivan, '95; Rick Lycens, '95; and Vesna Tomoski, '95, met in the Student Commons, during first semester finals. Many students had more than one lunch, due to schedule confusion.



Fordough photo

◆ Mark Lenjel, '95, tap dances during a football game halftime show. Lenjel is well-known for his acrobatic feats like backflips.

# LUCAS

## mark

With five daughters of his own, Mark Lucas is more than qualified to serve as school board president. Elected for the job by the three other members on July 1st of 1994, Lucas' job mainly entails presiding over board meetings and signing significant documents and contracts. He tries to attend as many school functions as possible, but modestly admits, "I don't think being president gets you any special invitation."

Lucas considers the major concern facing the school

system is a lack of state funding. With a continual increase in the student body, and a lack of corresponding increases in financing, class sizes are on the rise, making it more challenging for teachers to give students the attention they demand. Lucas hopes that as Ross Township grows and generates more students, the legislation will be passed

to provide more financial support.

As for his goals for the high school specifically, Lucas hopes that with the new and improved school, students will "maximize use of the facility."

In addition to his position in the administration of the school system, Lucas coaches Merrillville girls softball and youth soccer teams, and in his spare time, enjoys playing golf. Also, in the community, he is a partner of the law firm, Lucas, Holcomb, and Medrea, and serves on the Board of Advisors at IUN, and the Board of Directors for Bank One in Merrillville. Between helping to raise his five daughters, working for the school system, and working in the community, Lucas leads a many-faceted life.

◆ Irene Halas

COULD  
Possibly  
Be Better



SUPERINTENDENTS—Dr. Bud Marks, asst. superintendent; Dr. Tony Lux, superintendent; Ron Price, asst. superintendent



ATHLETIC/WELLNESS DIRECTORS—Janis Qualizza, athletic director; Tom Cameron, asst. athletic director; NOT PICTURED: Dan Mulvihill, wellness director



SECRETARIES—Row 1: Shirley Barclay, Elaine Hydinger, Liz Frasca, Row 2: Debbie Klippel, Judy Vassallo, Maggie Miller, Debbie Zellers, Jean Webb, Cheryl Albers



SCHOOL BOARD-Dale Brooks, member; L.J. Crist, vice-president; Mark Lucas, president; Donna Stath, secretary; Timothy Flynn, member



PRINCIPALS-Tom Herbert, asst. principal; Dr. Daniel Rapacz, principal; Beverly Bashia, asst. principal



MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY/MAINTENANCE DIRECTORS-Mary Lou Sproat, media services director; Ray Mixell, technology director; NOT PICTURED: Gordon Lorentz, maintenance director



CUSTODIAL HEADS-Don Hickman, Helen Moravskij



AIDES-Row 1: Mary Scheffer, Shirley Ortegan, Janet Pennock, Sue Matthews, Row 2: Carol Lamphrect, Peggy Snelson, Carol Hogan, Gloria Zale, Barb Branda, Nicki Jusko, Margaret Leposky



SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDES-Row 1: Kathy Abbate, Martha Pendergrast, Row 2: Sandy Miller, Kathy Wilczynski, Mary Sturm

Paul Abernathy

Beverly Anderson

Jane Anderson

Bill Angelidis

Joe Atria

Marguerite Baffordini

Mary Ann Bertram

Allan Brooks



Robbie Bothwell

Lee Bottom

Judith Chisholm

Linda Christoff

Mary Clay

Jeff Clinkenbeard

Don Coyle

Jackie Crane



Terri Deeb

Steve DeVille

Bark Dickey

Nancy Draper

Miles Duncombe

Len Dusel

James End

Richard Ebler



Dee Edgcomb

James Edgcomb

Roger Emig

Sharon Esles

Tom Feeney

Diane Firme

Maryann Foster

Linda Fug



Drew FurNESS

Mary Ann Galanis

Rick Garner

Elizabeth Givens

Sally Groesbeck

Raymond Hamilton

Did Hill

Richard Hurley



Max Hutchinson

William Idicre

Sharon Izak

Jim Johnson

Christopher Joll

Jerold Kassolo

Michelle King

Barbara Kotay



John Kekoa

Resellen Kekoa

Mike Kekoa

Margaret Lain

Connie Lewis

Diane Manden

Suzie May

Patricia McNally



Mona Miller

Robert Moore

Joe Monroe

Patrick Mulcahy

Marianne Oates

Tom Peller

Jeselina Pongal

Terry Priftl



# PORAPAT

josefina



Lisa Prosser  
Esmelinda Pult  
Geri Rainey  
Allen Rawlings



Jerald Reinhard  
Wanda Rice  
Andrea Rygelski  
Eunice Sanders



Violet Schmuck  
John Seale  
Mary Shesbee  
Margaret Stollings



Jean Stanford  
Evelyn Steiner  
Randolph Stelter  
Lytle Stelling



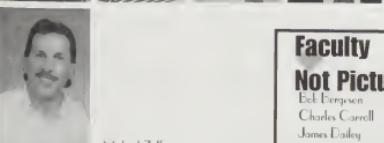
Laura Stoner  
Michelle Sulich  
Dave Teter  
Richard Terpstra



Barbara Zimmerman  
Carol Von Eicken  
Janet Wilson  
Madeline Wilson



Erik Wimmer  
Bruce Woods  
Jeff Yellen  
Dave Zimmerman



Michael Zelko

## Faculty Not Pictured

Eck Bergeson  
Charles Carroll  
James Dailey  
Jan Hughes

Mary Jeffress  
Judy LeDuc  
Jack Nealep  
Shirley Rennier  
Don Sip  
Irene Spire  
James Vermillion

The newest edition to the teaching staff can often be seen speaking fluent Spanish in the hallways. Josefina Porapat was born and raised in Spain which could explain why she speaks the language with such ease. Maria Papadakis, '96, one of Mrs. Porapat's third year students, stated, "Since she knows the language, she can help you understand better."

When Porapat was twenty-nine, she was married

to a Chicago native and had a one year-old son. She loves her sons very much and has second thoughts about moving back to Spain because of them.

But out of all the schools, why teach at Merrillville? She replied, "It has a strong community feeling. But now that I am here, I realized that everything and everybody is better than I had imagined." She stated, "The foreign language department is one of the strongest I have worked with, and the students are very good." She replied when asked about the best excuse she ever gave to a teacher, "I never was a nerd, but I don't think to have given an excuse to a teacher. I was always prepared. They are tough in Spanish schools." But what she misses most about Spain are, "The blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea all year round. But especially my parents and the rest of my family."

◆ DEIDE ELIZONDO

**Couldn't  
Possibly  
Be Better**

LaTacia Adams  
Tyren Adams  
Faniere Aguilar  
Anthony Aquilera  
Jorge Alvarez  
George Alexandria  
Tom Alexandria  
Eugenio Alvarez



Alex Amalineach  
Michael Anoceric  
Juan Araya  
Fidela Arendales  
George Arendales  
Alfred Arezo  
Corvin Argote  
Tracy Armstrong



Matthew Aukin  
Ilja Babic  
Stephanie Baldigal  
Ella Baars  
Kathleen Bartekowski  
Jonathon Bassett  
Eric Beale  
Jennifer Beagle



Carolyn Belmash  
Marsha Belmash  
Jeffrey Berline  
Samuel Berkman  
Elena Bielawski  
Lifang Bielawski  
Heather Blumenship  
Jason Blumenship



Alicia Blonder  
Elizabeth Bobes  
Ronald博登  
Rebecca Boesch  
Terrence Boyd  
Christin Bradley  
Anita Brzeggs  
Keine Brochner



Anne Bronowski  
Elizabeth Brown  
Sarah Brown  
Solen Brown  
Frederick Buck  
Keith Buloski  
Kelly Burke  
Maja Businicks



Andrew Byrom  
Robert Coyle  
William Campbell  
Felix Cantrell  
Richie Carden  
Jack Cardin  
Jason Carr  
Heather Carter



Amber Cason  
John Castell  
Rose Castillo  
Elaine Castro  
Betty Collier  
James Cornell  
Michelle Chandler  
Eric Chapman





Jamie Chapman  
Joshua Christoff  
Cheyenne Cervinone  
Amy Clark



Kimberly Clark  
Matthew Clemens  
Nicholas Clemens  
Lorraine Coe



April Connolly  
Amanda Cook  
Jason Gerison  
Crystal Gearington



David Cross  
Tom Cross  
Nicole Crisman  
Nathan Cross



Jeff Cseke  
Michael Curtis  
Jody Cupher  
Kristian Darden



Michael De Courcy  
Jack De Haven  
Alicia De Leon  
Christina De Long



Roy De Young  
Craig Demarce  
Richard Deme  
Lupita Despotishi



Zorina Despotishi  
Angelo Di Souza  
Damien Dilbone  
Diana Dipert

# CHANDLER michelle

**S**he's nice, understanding, and enjoys having fun by doing her best at everything she does. On a normal day, you can find her being her usual self: hyper and full of energy. She always tries to be a friend to everyone. Who is she? Why her name is Michelle Renee Chandler. Many of her friends know her as "Misha". What sets her apart from other people? "I think that I am different from other people because I try not to be who I am not. I feel that if someone is going to be my friend then they will like me for who I am and not expect me to change," she says. Chandler always has a smile for everyone.



Chandler is involved in mixed choir. She believes that it is interesting and can be a challenge. She hopes to be active in choir all four years of high school. Some of her hobbies include talking on the phone and listening to the radio. Unbeknownst to many people, she loves to dance! She agrees that it may not be a talent, but she loves to do it anyway. In addition, she adds, "I really enjoy rollerblading because it is a challenge of life!"

What does she plan to do in the future? "I plan to get married and raise children to the best of my ability," she says. But before she gets married, she would like to attend Ball State University and share a dorm with a couple of friends. One day she also dreams of participating in professional ice skating.

◆ SHANNON BUKOVAC

**Possibly  
Be Better**

# Jill Matusik

**W**hat kind of a person do people say Jill Matusik is? While her friends believe she is reliable, yet crazy and outgoing, Jill thinks of herself as her own person. Perhaps this would explain why pickles are her favorite food.

Initially, Matusik spends a great deal of her time involved in athletics here at the high school, as she did back at Harrison.

Her time after school and evenings are spent perfecting her soccer, basketball, and softball techniques. On the other hand, she also makes sure to save time for her homework to maintain her 4.0 GPA.

Matusik explains that she has gained a lot of motivation from her older cousin Allison. "She gives me reassurance, keeps my spirits up, and can always make me smile. She is like my best friend and the older sister I never had." Obviously something keeps this outstanding student going.

Matusik has many goals for her lifetime. One of which includes attending her favorite college Notre Dame. She would also like to have a career, a family, and a future that holds soccer somewhere in it. But Matusik still has one goal before her high school career ends. What's left to desire for the girl who has so many great qualities? "I'd love to run my fingers through Chris Dimitroff's hair," she says.

◆ CARYN KRYSA

Couldn't  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

Ashley Debs  
Dorin Delrich  
Naomi Denkski  
David Duschner



Tanya Dugdale  
Heather Egner  
Matthew Fajner  
Jes Fisch



Kelly Eddleidge  
Charles Elliott  
Terri Fannons  
Clarence English



Kevin English  
Grace Fiamilla  
Alexandre Fougner  
Andy Fougner



Tiffani Foss  
Jeffrey Fairbairn  
Michael Flukka  
Christina Forrest



Lauren Fralinger  
Joshua Francis  
Ryan Francis  
Jason Franzen



Barbara Freeman  
Margaret French  
Amy Frey  
Dennis Frizzell



Kathryn Graines  
Dawn Golic  
Anne Gallagher  
Lisa Garber





Erin George  
Angela Geerigan  
Diana Gill  
Mercedes Goetz  
Marie Gonzalez  
Goeffrey Gooch  
Deanna Goodman  
Jennifer Gordon



Stefko Gorski  
Elizabeth Gray  
Rebecca Greenberg  
Kristina Greene  
Beth Gregor  
Erosley Gregory  
Jacob Gross  
Yvonne Guardiola



Angie Guernsey  
Philip Guernsey  
Erin Guernsey  
Aaron Guice  
Maria Hallas  
Amber Hamilson  
Diana Hammer  
Joseph Harbour



Jacques Harris  
James Harris  
Sarah Harris  
Fondie Hawkins  
Nicholas Hazi  
Delenis Head  
Lesbia Hearn  
Ginny Heitman



Erik Herber  
Jesus Hernandez  
Anna Ferreiro  
Joyce Ferreiro  
Larry Herzog  
James Fesler  
Jennifer Hill  
Megan Hill



Christopher Hodges  
Brandon Hollings  
Stephanie Hopkins  
Nick Holm  
Laura Hoover  
Chishowandrea Horler  
David Hoiser  
Danielle Houck



Shannon Houck  
Jennifer Hummel  
Mike Hunke  
Michael Igarts  
Anthony James  
David Janda  
Bill Janowsky  
Ebinie Johnson



Erisharon Johnson  
Margaret Johnson  
Mary Johnson  
September Johnson  
Matthew Johnson  
Roda Jones  
Romell Jones  
Tiffany Jones

Den Joseph  
Natali Jevonovic  
Alexander Jevonovic  
Nicki Kardelkes  
Michael Kardelkes  
Keagan Larimi  
Steven Larson  
Stacy Lash



Stephen Laseeis  
Kelly Leishman  
Johnson Leishman  
Andy Lenander  
Andy Hendrik  
Danielle Lems  
Michelle Licavoli  
Joy Linckow



Shannon Ling  
April Liska  
Jennifer Ljubich  
Joseph Lonsdale  
Jerry Lonsdale  
Andrew Lonsdale  
Eddy Losinski  
Jennifer Lonsdale



Daryl Lordholz  
Steven Lorraine  
Lou Losinski  
Tom Losowski  
Richard Louwrier  
Jennifer Luckak  
Todd Lutz  
Jennifer Luckovich



Jason Lung  
Joshua Lung  
Ericia Lund  
Michael Lund  
Peter Lupas  
Anne Lund  
Dawn Lawrence  
Harold Le May



Amber Leader  
Jason Leffelton  
Auren Lepciorre  
Folwenn Lopez  
Steve Lopez  
Meena Lujan  
David Lugo  
Melissa Lunn



Lisa Lugen  
Sean Lyons  
Allison Mackay  
Terrie Makdou  
Anthony Madremon  
Rob Magoni  
Richard Maiden  
from Malamutcos



Elena Molave  
Leslie Molinich  
Joe Molinig  
Brandi Manning  
Matt Mandl  
Milena Maric  
Steve Marincich  
Amber Martin



# KISZKA

The halls are quiet until April Marie Kiszka comes bounding through the doors. Full of vitality and fun, she can make just about anyone laugh. You never know when this gal might burst into a goofy song or catch a contagious case of giggles. When asked about any hidden talents she may have, she said "I can wiggle my ears!" What sets her apart from other people? "Well, I do not care what people think. I like to be different and not like the crowd." She is definitely unlike the average teen.

Kiszka is always doing strange things. One time, she was fishing with her grandparents and caught a sea gull by accident. Kiszka had her bait skipping across the water and a sea gull came and stole the bait! Needless-to-say, the bird got caught up in her line so her grandpa had to untangle the bird before it could fly away.

She remembers one of her most embarrassing moments was in fifth grade gym when she slipped on the floor in front of everyone.

Some of her favorite things are tacos, "Fresh Prince of Bel Aire," and spending time with her friends. Her favorite song is "On Bended Knee," and her favorite group is Boyz II Men.

If she had the chance to do something to change the world, this eco-sensitive gal would like to invent an ozone-maker so that she could repair all of the holes in the ozone layer.

After high school, Kiszka plans to attend college and get a medical degree. She would some day like to become a pediatric nurse.

◆ SHANNON BUKUVC

COULDN'T  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

Liesley Martin  
Alyssia Matlock  
Jill Matusik  
Mark Majersky

David Mc Carthy  
Jennifer Mc Carthy  
Shawn Mc Carthy  
Jeremy Mc Clain

Bonnie Mc Farland  
Evelyn Mc Keethen  
Erin Mc Linden  
Kelly Mc Shone

Yoshima Mead  
Jason Meemo  
Francisco Medellin  
Sergio Medellin

Jeffrey Meeks  
Derek Mellic  
Teressa Melendez  
Angela Melink

James Mezo  
Mely Mezoza  
Dennis Milam  
Steven Milak

Chris Miles  
Lorraine Miller  
Jill Milton  
Greg Miles

Lisa Molina  
Jamie Molenda  
Peter Mondeone  
David Morgan



# SHOBACK jennifer

**A**lthough one might perceive her as outgoing due to her super up-to-date grunge appearance, Jennifer Shoback '98, is really just the opposite. Quiet, timid, and shy, Shoback is true to her hometown, Merrillville, where she now shares the household with her mom and dad. Her older brother Steven and sister Christen have already left the nest, and she sometimes feels a little lonely without their companionship. Shoback, a

truly sociable Libra spends her free time hanging out with friends, Kathy Bartochowski, '98; Tracey Armstrong, '98; Maria Halkias, '98; and many others. She also enjoys listening to her favorite



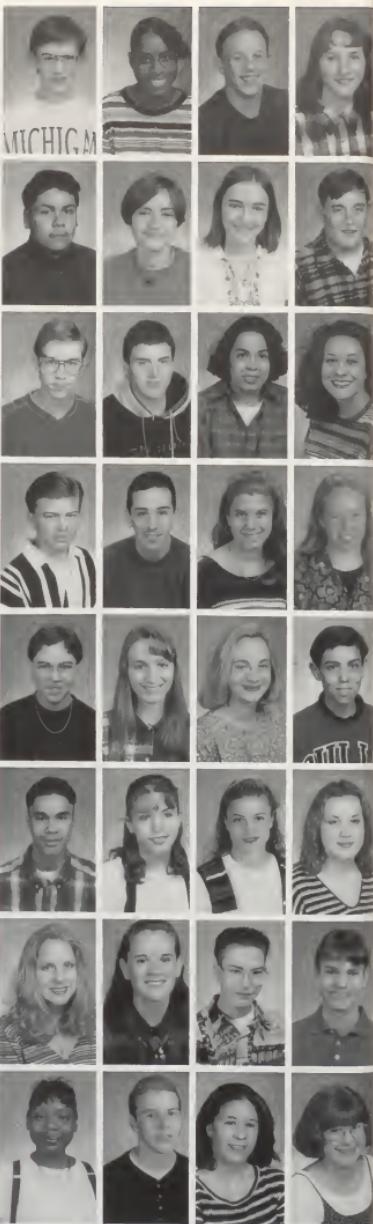
music artists, such as Nirvana, Soundgarden, and Hole. Shoback's true love, though, is snuggling up with the newest ghost stories she can find. She remembers last year when she and a bunch of friends accidentally got locked in a haunted house. "At first we were really scared, but it was still kind of cool."

Shoback is striving to be the best she can by getting good grades. Math class is one of the subjects that needs a little extra studying time. "Once in a while I have to really focus on the subject and do a little extra," she comments. Her life was greatly influenced by the late Kurt Cobain, who committed suicide due to drug influence. She once looked up to him as an example, but she now understands better that "Life is the greatest gift one can have."

◆ LAURIE WOTOWICZ

CCIDENT  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

Christopher Merk  
Tenisha Morris  
Joshua Mese  
Erin Mulley





Matthew Pendleton  
Jason Pearson  
Santos Pedraza  
Jeff Peek  
Tashunda Peete  
Diana Pena  
Angelo Pena  
Erin Pendley



Jami Penilla  
Bridget Petrelis  
Hisachalee Petrelis  
Jordan Pierson  
Paul Pillman  
Christopher Polak  
Michael Polak  
Bradley Polozes



Alberto Portes  
Wesley Potts  
Trisha Potts  
Valerie Pratscher  
Daniels Preunski  
Kelly Preus  
Erin Price  
Terri Prince



Nicole Quinbler  
Amanda Radigan  
David Rainey  
Nicole Rakich  
Adrian Ramirez  
Rofael Ramirez  
Jamel Rashad  
Mary Rausbach



Jessica Reed  
Douglas Reeve  
Kristina Rendina  
Lisa Renahan  
Ryan Renflehr  
Renae Reyes  
John Richards  
Richard Rich  
Natalie Risbeddi  
Danielle Rivera  
Nader Rivera  
Steven Rivera  
Jennifer Romanes  
Austin Roberts  
Clinique Robimca  
Ron Robinson



Jeremiah Rodriguez  
Eduardo Roman  
Eric Romeo  
Johnny Roosa  
Jennifer Rose  
Daniel Rosenbaum  
Erin Roth  
Timothy Roylan



Kimberly Ruehl  
Kimberly Rumph  
Curtis Rund  
Ronald Russin  
Melissa Soltz  
Rosa Solazor  
Anthony San Miguel  
Jennifer Sanders

Ali Santos  
Aileen Sattler  
Beth Scheffler  
Sarah Schmuck  
Jenae Schramm  
Chris Schuck  
Timothy Sebold  
Matt Sell



Dennis Semoski  
Drew Seigle  
Adam Shaffer  
Jennifer Shower  
John Shiffert  
Brittany Sheldon  
Rachel Sheridan  
Andrew Shuh



Alicia Shimpeler  
Jennifer Shielock  
Clint Showmaker  
De Anna Shlentz  
Jacob Sills  
Roger Sills  
Jamie Simpson  
Michelle Simpson



Erian Sims  
Michael Simunek  
Susan Simkowicz  
Gabriel Slezak  
Nicole Slura  
Brandi Smith  
Erian Smith  
Jeffery Smith



Jacob Sonderman  
Hilary Snover  
Cassandra Solomon  
Melissa Stonely  
Anthony Stora  
Daniel Strelski  
Danny Spallicci  
Maria Spanos



Matt Sparacino  
Daniel Spencer  
Stephanie Sporko  
Kevin Standard  
Alexis Stahls  
Aaron Steele  
Kristin Stankiewicz  
Christy Stewart



Lorie Stock  
Lori Stanciopher  
Rupa Stead  
Paul Strong  
Sherrie Stupic  
Donald Summer  
Alan Swift  
Alonzo Swift



Jason Tabor  
Jonathan Tallied  
Andy Tantis  
Jeffrey Tapper  
Jacob Tellotte  
Alliki Theodoreou  
Marisa Thomas  
Elizabeth Tedroska





David Iekaki  
Krista Iekaki  
Miguel Iekaki  
Tyler Iekaki



Allison Igert  
Abigail Igert  
Dawn Igert  
Jamie Ulrich



Scott Underwood  
Alton Vidas  
Michelle Vidas  
Stacy Vidas



Dimitrios Vassilios  
Richard Vawter  
Samuel Vazquez  
Damon Vekes



Kimberly Veal  
Natacha Vio  
Robert Vinson  
Paul Virgo



Ryan Vesic  
Julia Vokan  
Christina Valetic  
Nicholas Vorso



Christy Welsh  
Felicia Walters  
Matt Warus  
Holly Wellesel



Michelle Westerfield  
Timmy Wheeler  
Lakisha Williams  
Lester Williams

# ROAMES

## jennifer

**W**hat makes Jennifer Roames different from other people? According to her, it may be her big dimples; so deep, in fact, that she says, "my thumb fits in them." She doesn't hesitate to show those big dimples to the people she deals with in a variety of clubs. Roames plays soccer on the school team and is a member of the marching and concert bands. Outside of school, she enjoys participating in the activities of the FCA (Fellowship for Christian Athletes) and other church youth groups. Her talents include singing and playing sports, and also playing the oboe, piano, and saxophone. As though these activities do not keep her busy enough, she enjoys drawing and cartooning in her spare time.



In the short term future, Roames plans on traveling to France the summer before her sophomore year. Later on in life, she hopes to attend a large college outside of the state. She'll look for a school with good academic courses, yet many sports and clubs. Apparently, Roames plans on continuing her great sportsmanship well beyond her high school years.

◆ **Irene Halkias**

**COULDN'T  
Possibly  
Be Better**

# KOSTESKI

## bobby

**R**emember that at one point in our lives we were all freshmen. Each one of us knows how it feels. We all know how freshmen are looked down upon and viewed as scum of the Earth. But in reality there are many interesting underclassmen.

Fourteen year-old Bobby Kosteski, '98, was born on August 19, 1980, in Merrillville IN. Lazy is not a word used to

describe Kosteski. Although he is not involved in any clubs, He plays soccer for MHS. One of his best friends, JR Medellin, influenced him to join, under the expertise of Coach Tim Thompson.



Many of us would not have the will-power to get up every day and run four to five miles a day after school. It requires self-discipline and dedication. And even though he plays soccer, he just can't get enough. He often enjoys watching soccer games.

When he has free time, Kosteski enjoys going to the movies, going to the mall, and just hanging out with his friends Chris Celeski, JR Medellin, Rod Dulecki, and Steve Sikanoiki.

He plans on attending the University of Notre Dame to study medicine and to become a family physician.

His goal this year is to "end it with good grades." Too bad most don't have that same "underclassmen" attitude.

◆ JAMIE MCKENNEY

Can't  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

Beri Wilson  
Jennifer Wilson  
Keith Wilson  
Miosha Wilson



Jill Wolosz  
AnnMarie Wojciech  
MaryAnn Wooley  
Jason Woollse



Yvonne Woszczyński  
Lori Wedell  
Marjorie Wright  
Nicholas Wright



Eric Xidias  
Jenny York  
Jennifer Young  
Nina Zamora



Carly Zawodni  
Tim Zencz  
Amanda Zorich  
Jesmoni Zunne



◆ Determined to win, the freshmen powder puff team takes on the sophomores. To some dismay two upsets were pulled off in the annual competition. Not only did the class of '98 beat that of '97, but the juniors toppled the seniors as well.



Dena Aquiles  
David Alimene  
Keith Allbee  
Thomas Alfiff  
Amber Allison  
Tawanna Allen  
Jessica Anderson  
M. 'Rion Anderson



Angela Andreates  
Yasmin Aperde  
Frank Arambula  
Amanda Argue  
Jamie Bailey  
Errol Balcerak  
Nick Balcerak  
Matthew Barnes



Jody Bone  
Imi Boudam  
Nathan Parks  
Robin Barron  
Emily Barnett  
Tawanna Beagle  
Amber Beck  
James Bergstrom



Jennifer Berkman  
Christina Berry  
Angela Bertolo  
Lehman Best  
Ted Bowley  
Stacia Bush  
Elizabeth Black  
Jovan Blacknell



Nicole Blondel  
Valerie Boromis  
Andrew Bowden  
David Brugge  
Amber Bruden  
Eckley Branham  
Alisia Breda  
Neil Breosman



Melissa Brethers  
Jeremiah Brown  
Melinda Brown  
Melissa Brown  
Stacey Brown  
Mike Brunner  
Jeff Burkle  
Amanda Buda



Christine Budnicki  
Steven Buopp  
Kotic Burdett  
Kristine Burke  
Jason Eggers  
Jasmine Cole  
Sarah Comeray  
Chris Comina



Ryan Campbell  
Robert Carlson  
Chris Celeksi  
Michael Cesare  
Verna Cespares  
Larry Chandler  
Melanie Chandler  
Corby Clark

Matthew Clark  
Melissa Clark  
Erik Clark  
Jensen Cederon  
Lena Cole  
Nicole Cole  
Randall Collins  
Cara Colon



Natalie Connor  
Christee Comnelly  
Ales Coppinger  
Michael Coupland  
Front Courtington  
Ragan Crevisen  
Chico Cruz  
Kelly Dahlén



Bonja Domjanczki  
James Davis  
Majesta Davis  
Ryan Davis  
Janell Deem  
Heather Dempsey  
Grey Denham  
Darin Derico



Ryan Derico  
Chris Dumbrell  
Somontho Dumfitt  
Megan Dixon  
Jamie Dobis  
Bogna Doroski  
David Dowsus  
Susan Drebeck



Brendan Drzadka  
Chris Fostler  
Aleks Fimmonioldi  
Kevin Finnell  
Eagle Finsap  
Raed Fispace  
Senna Fispati  
Jennifer Fissex



Ashley Fides  
David Evans  
Frank Fabiano  
Michael Farlin  
Joseph Farley  
John Fishing  
Gina Faskore  
Neil Field

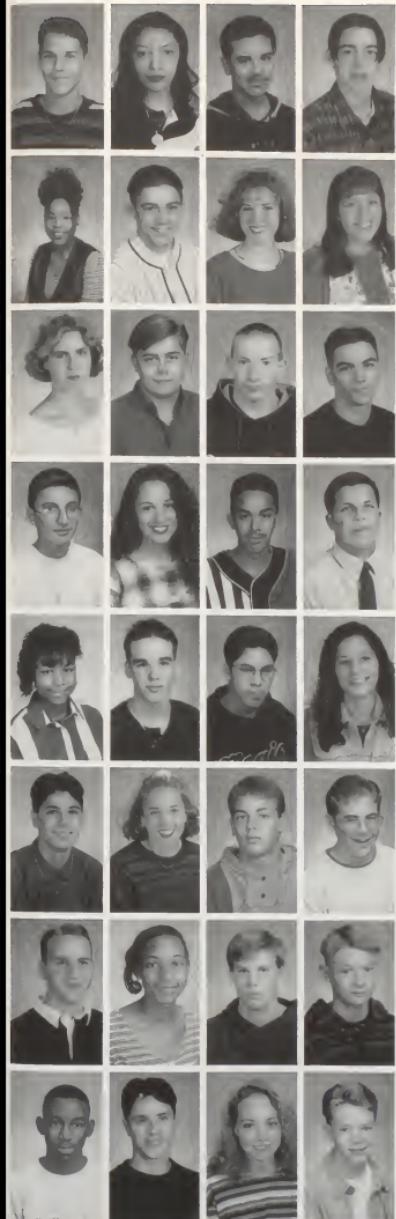


Michael Ferjo  
Michael Filan  
Marco Flores  
Michelle Flores  
Barri Foster  
John Foster  
Rocky Fresh  
Donny Freeland



Brian Free  
Sarah Frank  
Evan Gabriel  
Destinie Gallardo  
Erica Gallardo  
Colby Gilman  
Fresia Goban  
Christina Ganga





Jonathon Garcia  
Maricela Garcia  
Rene Garcia  
Christopher Garner

Kelly Galton  
Justin Gear  
Holly Gendry  
Kristen Gendry

Angela Gruska  
James Gill  
Joseph Giordano  
Stanke Glajcic

Charles Gonzalez  
Dennina Gonzalez  
Elwin Gonzalez  
Nadina Gonzalez

LaToya Gravelou  
Jack Grand  
Juan Grapede  
Elizabeth Guardiola

Joseph Guardiola  
Amy Gutierrez  
Jason Hise  
Robert Hulse

Frank Halczarz  
Nichelle Hall  
Nicholas Hamilton  
Eric Hansen

Derrick Harpster  
John Harris  
Annette Harness  
Brian Haussmann

# DOWNS

**W**ho runs to Taco Bell before the beginning of ESPN's "Sportscenter"? It's none other than David Downs, '97, a.k.a. "Bubba." Downs is basically a funny guy, but he explains that he has a mean streak when it comes to certain people. Just stay out of his way and everything is okay. Everything he does, and the way he acts, is what sets him apart from other people to be seen as an extraordinary person. Downs finds enjoyment in showing off any special talents he possesses, so there really isn't anything he can do that everyone hasn't already seen.

Downs comes from a fairly large family especially considering that his parents are divorced. He has a step-mother, step-father, three brothers, and a sister.



Although Bubba's favorite subject is geometry, he hasn't decided to become a geometry teacher, but would possibly like to pursue a career somewhere in the law field, such as a lawyer. Georgia and Michigan are his top college picks but, "Where I go to college will depend on what kind of scholarship offers I get," he states.

Downs is an active sports person who plays both basketball and football. Seventh grade was his first year in basketball, and of course he had to play since everyone else was. Downs believes that he only made the team because the coach was his neighbor. He thinks that he has made the team fairly every year after. A dream come true for Downs would be to play pro football. He does realize the odds are stacked against him, but everyone has to dream.

◆ JENNIFER BEWLEY

COULD'NT  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

# KRISKO

## maegan

**S**he's multi-talented, multi-hobbyed, and to top it all off, super nice too. She's Maegan Krisko, '97, and she's out to take on the world, or at least MHS. "I consider myself, loud, caring, sensitive, outgoing, and most importantly, cheerful. I feel that it is important and helpful to be so full of life, that way I can get through tough situations."

When she's not spreading her sunshine through out the halls of MHS, you'll often find her in one of MHS's swimming pools, practicing with the rest of the swim team. "I enjoy swimming because it's a sport and I get my share of exercise." Swimming takes a lot of time and dedication to become better and succeed. When she's not at school, you can also

find her hanging at home with mom, Kathleen, and younger brother Patrick.

In any spare time she plays the flute, and loves to cook. Besides cooking, she loves to speak in public as well. Public speaking has helped her to perform better also, because another talent she possesses is that of acting. But more than just that, "I love kids and I love to babysit," comments Krisko. That will definitely prepare her for the future when she is married and has the three kids she is hoping for.

Other plans for the future include going to college and majoring in business. Krisko is uncertain about what type of business she will try, maybe a day-care center or even a restaurant, but she has plenty of time to plan later, right now she is just sitting back and enjoying the high school ride.

◆ KIMBERLY ANDERSON

COULDNT  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

Fender Henderson  
Ellie Hennington  
John Hilliker  
Barbara Hoagland



Ruthy Hedges  
Britton Hellmann  
Michelle Higgins  
Donny Hollandsorth



Angela Howard  
Amy Howland  
Lata Hughes  
Crystal Hussey



Kevin Hutzick  
Peter Ilievski  
Melissa Jachimowicz  
Julie Jackson



Steve Jacobs  
Tiffany Januszewski  
Karionne Jelinek  
Joshua Jen



Kalley Jenkins  
Sarah Jensen  
Erinlee Johnson  
Jennifer Johnson

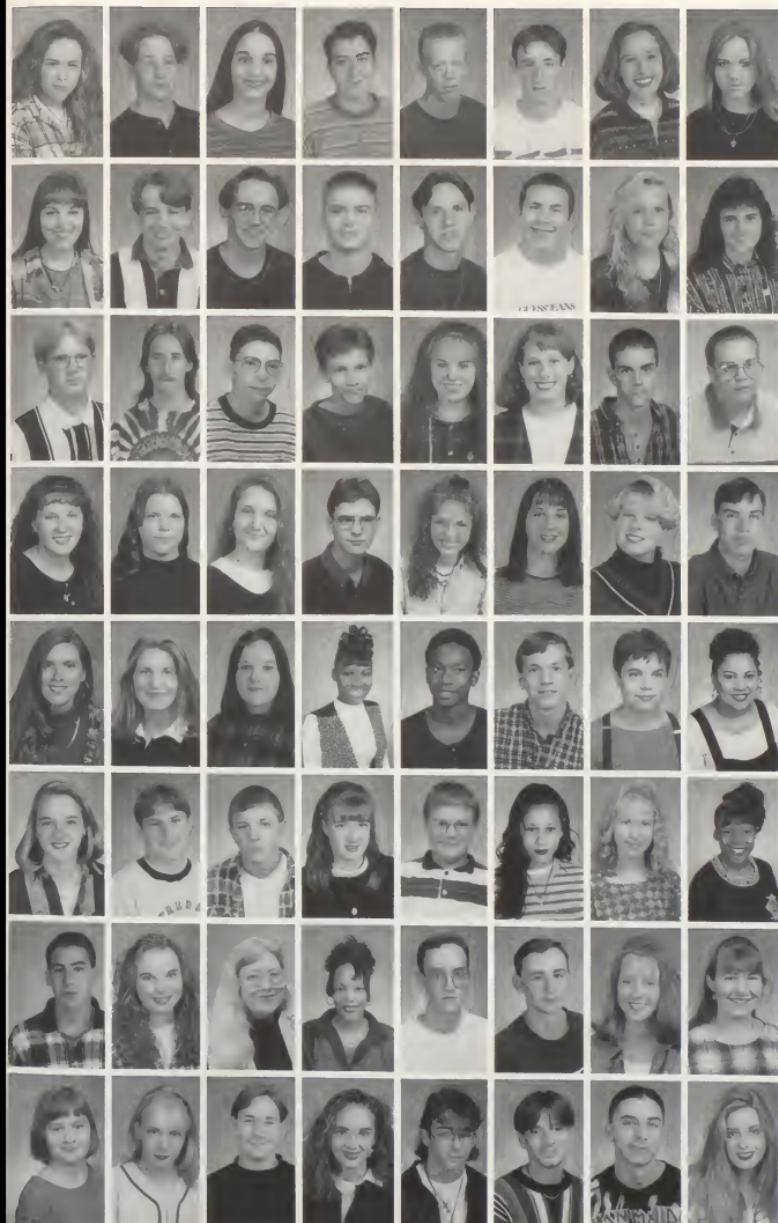


Ricky Jelanden  
Dimesha Jones  
Shannon Jones  
Jeremy Josley



Erin Jester  
Sue Jevonski  
Rebekah Justo  
Niki Kolejens





Kristen Koponka  
Paul Kosak  
Maria Kossman  
Emmanuel Kozomis  
David Keene  
David Kofsky  
Crystal Kompa  
Cynthia Kenney

Amanda Kirk  
Justin Kisinger  
Jim Klein  
Narang Klipka  
Michael Kmetz  
John Kollus  
Sandra Kolodziej  
Audra Konzicki

Erian Koencke  
Kyle Kong  
Daniel Konkel  
Lucas Kora  
Laura Kraft  
Megan Lisko  
Alan Lustig  
Jamiann Luckey

Melissa Lair  
Angela Lamb  
Rebecca Lambert  
Paul Lee  
Shannon Lentz  
Jennifer Lesley  
Jaime Levitt  
John Lind

Hillary Lipp  
Heather Lohse  
Kristina Long  
Ruby Long  
Asha Luckey  
Richard Ludwig  
Heather Luettke  
Marisa Luevano

Kristina Maleski  
Gregory Mallone  
Matthew Meloche  
Lindsay Mandich  
Steven Manning  
Celeste Martinez  
Elizabeth Massell  
Kensheda Maxwell

Mark Mazzone  
Michelle McAdoo  
Christina Mc Conn  
Erenza Mc Festheen  
Shaun Mc Lain  
Frank McMullin  
Kelly Meeks  
Lori Mengari

Susan Meissler  
Michelle Merder  
Joshua Micah  
Tiffani Mickey  
Joseph Mikal  
Adam Mihm  
Guy Mikulich  
Vickie Milkic

Sarah Miloshevitch  
Angie Miller  
Christopher Miller  
John Miller  
Eric Milton  
Marish Mitchell  
Christopher Mies  
Michael Mendeimyer



Melissa Montgomery  
Raymond Montgomery  
Nicole Moore  
Joe Moore  
Carly Morgan  
Jeff Moriarty  
Jeffrey Morelson  
Natalie Morel



Ben Murray  
Laura Murbaugh  
Natalie Mychowski  
Michael Nalberczek  
Fiona Neely  
Stephanie Niedini  
Joshua Niedwicki  
Lora Nielsen



Kelly Niemola  
Natalie Nixon  
Allen Nodd  
Christy Oh  
Angelo Oliver  
James Oliver  
Eva Olson  
Jacqueline Ortiz



Monell Pace  
Melissa Page  
Randy Palmerster  
Nicole Panigugan  
Devin Parker  
Philip Parker  
Jaime Paulson  
Max Pearson



Julius Personal  
John Pogacki  
Elwin Poliquina  
Julianne Peppas  
Michelle Perez  
Dominion Perkins  
Lambert Poer  
Shawn Puschke



Dana Peters  
Engyn Phillips  
April Pieroni  
Michael Pierson  
Brendon Poffo  
Courtney Polakow  
Melissa Polaskay  
Jennifer Ponzick



Jennie Pragmalya  
Desma Price  
Leah Price  
Carolyn Proctor  
Matt Puleman  
Dustin Quennell  
Jennifer Raines  
Crystal Ramsey



# BROWN melissa

**S**he's kind, caring, and is always ready to lend an ear in concern for other people. Who is this girl? She's Melissa Ellon Brown. Brown explains that she cares more for other people's feelings than for her own. Brown goes out of her way to see that she doesn't hurt anyone's feelings, but if it does happen, she is sure to apologize. "In my friendships, I am the quiet one, but sometimes I can have quite a big mouth that can get me into trouble," she adds about her personality. She also explains that she can sometimes be a little spacey. Brown is a Girl Scout, and loves going to camp to be with her friends. Not only is she a fun loving person, but she's a rough, tough powder puff player.



Unfortunately, Brown's parents are divorced, which has separated her and her twin brother. Although she has been separated from her father and brother, she lives with her mother, her two sisters, and her grandfather. Brown's mother is paralyzed, but she hasn't let any of this darken her days.

What does the future hold for this caring young lady? Well, sometime within the next couple of school years, she would like to become homecoming queen or prom queen. After high school, Brown wants to attend college to become a physical therapist. She also stated, "I'd like to get married and someday have twins: one boy and one girl."

◆ JENNIFER BEWLEY

**Possibly  
Couldn't  
Be Better**

Bob Rachek  
Cled Roper  
Mike Fahlburn  
Meagan Kieberg

Cesar Recio  
Akron Reed  
Britt Reese  
Ryan Remenius

Meselle Richards  
Jay Richardson  
Wayne Rydell  
Dejan Kestenski

Juliana Fadic  
Michael Robbins  
Patricia Robbins  
Theresa Rodriguez

Jessica Rogers  
Adam Rosses  
Christina Rosenwinkel  
Brian Roth

Jason Kubine  
DaVon Kumpf  
Stephen Salcedo  
Jessica Sanchez

Veronica Sanchez  
Elli Sandrik  
Fala Soltani  
Justin Savich

Karla Schell  
Mark Scheiner  
Sean Scott  
Shannon Scott

# john MILLER

**A** hunk, a hunk of burnin' love"-that's what he is. Nicknamed "Elvis," John Miller, '97, is involved in many clubs including the academic super bowl, environmental club, and student government (after all, he is the class vice-president.) He loves playing varsity soccer as a defender, and the violin in the school's orchestra. But when it comes to his music preference, he listens to classical and alternative.



He has one brother, Jeff, who is in the seventh grade and attends Harrison, and Jacqueline, his sister, who attends Miller as a kindergartner. On his weekends he plays pool, attends basketball and football games, goes to the movies, and does his homework. When asked about his most embarrassing moment he replied, "I don't have one." But don't let him fool you, just like any other, he's not immune to strange and often embarrassing incidents. He pointed out that the natural helpers retreat was a really good experience from which he learned a lot.

John is planning on attending Notre Dame to become a high school or college teacher of biology. Miller was influenced by John Krysa in the eighth grade when Krysa unexpectedly collapsed on the football field and died. Johnny said he would like to, "make everyone realize how lucky most of us really are and help others who aren't so lucky."

◆ CANDICE PARKER

COULDNT  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

Amber Sczurko  
Shawn Sepich  
Joshua Sessions  
Kathy Shopekoff



Stacey Shudick  
Nichelle Shultz  
Christopher Sklach  
Jennifer Sils

James Simonsi  
Derek Simpson  
Meredith Skura  
Lynn Smith

Clarene Smith  
Karin Smith  
Carrie Snow  
Amanda Sopke

Richard Sopke  
John Spokes  
Marie Spoglio  
Jensen Sparks

Jennifer Springman  
Heather Stanley  
Kevin Stanzione  
Michael Stahl

Joe Steeb  
Keith Stechleber  
Mandy Stetler  
Jeremie Stephens

Kellie Stephens  
T.J. Stoeckel  
Zdenko Sulski  
Sarah Sumichrest



Amy Sull  
Trisha Swenne  
Kimberly Swiere  
Jessica Swims  
John Szaller  
Susan Szell  
Tanya Tidell  
Adam Taylor



Felicia Taylor  
Lisa Taylor  
Sarah Taylor  
Lynckie Tegelman  
Jeffrey Thomas  
Michael Thores  
Eric Thomas  
Mark Torres



Desirae Tracy  
Jennifer Trajano  
Caitrina Triplett  
Jenny Treuer  
Stephanie Vale  
Jeff Van Volkenburgh  
Douglas Vander Tusk  
Eric Vargas



Jessica Virgas  
Al Voja  
Chris Velozquez  
Eddy Verbiak  
Matt Villanueva  
Jeanine Visne  
Eugene Vivo  
Rusko Venskeksi



Jennifer Vokin  
Michael Walker  
Selley Wall  
Emily Walls  
Nick Worrell  
Delphine Wedding  
Thomas Westbury  
Branden Whitaker



Felly White  
Everlinda Williams  
Leshaun Williams  
Stephanie Williams  
Jason Willison  
Katie Willison  
Falkleen Wanilewski  
Robert Wolf



Clifton Woods  
Jodi Yambrosak  
Jamie Young  
Maria Zairis  
Peth Zuk  
Luke Zukowski  
Lakisha Zanders  
Olivia Zdrenski



Christopher Zervos  
Alexandres Zestolaia  
Robert Zimmerman  
Paul Zoledz

Joel Abramson  
Steve Adams  
Jason Aller  
Staci Alvers  
Tosin Alvers  
Michelle Alcalo  
Willis Alexander  
Amy Amsdren



Sam Bannister  
Scott Bane  
Rebecca Banzen  
Jed Baric  
Joe Barker  
Dustin Barnell  
Anthony Baslin  
Tanesha Beavers



Robert Becker  
Andrew Belush  
Lisa Beres  
Danielle Bradley  
Jed Bradley  
Joe Bush  
Carmen Bouilla  
Brian Bratsher



Irene Briggs  
Erica Brown  
Matthew Brown  
Ragan Brown  
Imanisha Brown  
Christina Bruce  
Sean Buck  
Roy Buckley



Stephanie Budziszki  
Teng Budziszki  
Nicole Bullocksky  
Victoria Burdell  
Tim Burke  
Sarah Butt  
Jeff Byrd  
Angelica Camacho



Patricia Cantrell  
David Casteel  
Jennifer Colms  
Chris Christoff  
Charles Chung  
Stephanie Cichy  
Joseph Clemens  
Andrea Coates



Ryan Callum  
Sheau Cole  
Matthew Cooke  
Rich Cooper  
Andy Crane  
Erin Crowley  
Tom Csereko  
Megan Cullen



Becky Daney  
Chris De Mire  
Brian De Young  
Rich Diel  
Melissa Dennis  
Damon Devico  
Peter Difesa  
Bryan Dixon



# METROS

jimmy

**W**atching *Home Improvement* and listening to the Beastie Boys is what James Dean Metros, '96, enjoys most. If you don't recognize him as James Dean, how does Jimmy or even "Phonics" sound? These are two names that he is preferably known as.

Metros is best described as crazy, nutty, and silly. He has a personality that sets him apart from most people. He classifies himself as not being a follower.

Metros has high hopes for the future. He is looking forward to a career as an FBI agent. Before this happens, Metros would like to attend Indiana University, Bloomington and continue his studies.

The athletic part of him is seen in two different sports. He is kept busy by participating in tennis and track. Commenting on tennis and the reason behind his involvement, Jimmy arrogantly states, "I play because I'm great!" Track, on the other hand, simply keeps him in shape during the off-season of tennis. But he openly admits to tennis being his sport of choice.

In general, as far as MHS goes, Metros would like an open campus. Of course he doesn't mind waiting in line when the cafeteria is serving his favorite food, pizza, or any other pasta for that matter. Another change Metros feels is necessary is to have a longer passing period. The six minutes is just not enough time for him to get to class.

◆ NANCY PACKOVSKY

Coudn't  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

Venus Deneki  
Robert Doreki  
Jennifer Draper  
Michelle Dryall

Jason Dzunda  
David Eaton  
Robert Eaton  
Sarah Edwards

Rachel Elliott  
Jawelle Ellison  
Richard Escobedo  
Matt Espinoza

Riley Evans  
Trelle Evans  
Bill Faidlein  
Tony Ferguson

Roger Fleming  
Rob Flores  
Sarah Feltz  
Eric Forster

Joe Feder  
Dawn Fox  
Paul Francis  
Martha France

John Freau  
Melissa Freeman  
Jill Frue  
Jennifer Gabriel

Dave Gorals  
Lori Gorals  
Justin Gorals  
Christina Gorals



# ALCALA

## michelle

**S**he's funny, crazy and she's like no one you have ever met. Who is this amazing gal? It's Michelle Alcala, '96. Alcala is a junior at MHS and has gone to Merrillville schools all her life. Her opinion of MHS is, "Most of the staff and teachers are great, but the atmosphere stinks." Alcala has decided to move to England and attend art school after graduation. To go along with that, she really enjoys doing special effects make-up and sculpture. She has a very unique style of

dress. "I look different because it's what I believe in. I'm not a bad person and I'm not as mean as everyone thinks. If everyone would just give the people that look different a chance, I'd



bet they'd be surprised."

Alcala is a very inspiring person with a lot of strong beliefs. She is definitely someone who likes just being herself. To her that is important. Michelle is sometimes known as a tough person to get to know, but if people would just sit down and have a conversation with her, they would see what strong beliefs she has. She loves to voice her opinion and to be heard even more. But over all she is a sweet, understanding person who has a very bright future. Maybe one day some of Alcala's art will be found in public museums and art shows. The river runs deep through Michelle Alcala. She concludes with this powerful statement, "Only trust in your beliefs, for that is all you have that cannot be taken away. If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything."

◆ SARAH BURT

**Possibly  
Be Better**

Gerardo Gomez  
Troy Guzzo  
David Gearheard  
Stacie Gentry



Jennifer Gilbert  
Eric Gill  
Melissa Glorioso  
Zach Goetz



Adrienne Gonzalez  
Kara Gonzalez  
Morgan Gray  
Josh Gross



Mark Grubbs  
Steve Gruenke  
Nicole Guernsey  
Ryan Guerrero



Alicia Gunn  
Kelly Gut  
Barbie Guy  
Lina Guzik



Steven Guzman  
Matt Habegger  
Erica Hall  
David Hammer



Gina Hampton  
Jeanne Haeberle  
Jill Harris  
David Harvey



Chris Holloway  
Robert Heath  
Jeff Hendricks  
Clinton Henry





Rosanne Henry  
Erica Hott  
Nick Hilborne  
Melissa Hilberman  
Kurtis Hill  
Tanya Hill  
Tim Holdeman  
Marc Holm



Nikki Holm  
James Hong  
Joseph Ford  
Jamie Heidfeld  
Jason Hubcek  
Cliff Hughes  
Jeremy Hummel  
Chris Hulliford



Tammy Ialhouse  
Michelle Janicewski  
Ben Jarvis  
Dena Jefferson  
Damon Jenkins  
Joe Jenkins  
Rebecca Jenkins  
Judy Jennings



Jason Jesuit  
Martin Johnson  
Jason Jeslyn  
Shannon Jeslyn  
Eric Jesus  
Streken Jevonovic  
Bethong Juuke  
Mark Kaiser  
David Kommo  
Marie Kominsky  
Lisa Konsue  
Paul Kores  
Sarah Kothard  
Jessica Krehn  
Kevin Knightley  
Aubrey Kelley



Harriette Kelly  
Deddie King  
Pam Lintz  
Joshua Kirby  
David Kirkland  
Richard Knight  
William Koldus  
Robert Komar



Jamie Komenda  
David Korpela  
Michael Kostelnik  
Keith Kruszewski  
Melinda Krescik  
Tricia Kuhn  
Marky Kunk  
Kelly LaBonte



Auren LaPlante  
Bon Lach  
Jeremiah Lagalo  
Corey Lake  
Kenny Lange  
Jillian Lape  
Jesh Larson  
Rick Larson

Ani Lash  
Iljo Luszki  
Henry Lech  
Scott Lee  
Angela Lehman  
Aaron Lewis  
Denny Lewis  
Nick Lite



Mox Lipshak  
Tim Little  
Kum Lobodz  
Jason Lockhart  
Robert Long  
David Lopez  
Bret MacLusko  
Beth Macy



Marianne Maj  
Dave Maldonado  
Ann Marie Malec  
Aaron Malech  
Lisa Male  
Jason Malecha  
Paul Mandlau  
Melissa Manglovic



Megan Manoski  
Michelle Marcum  
John Marech  
Kristen Marler  
Jonathon Marlow  
Eric Martin  
Philip Martin  
Robert Martinez



Keith Mashburn  
Sean R. McConnell  
Sean W. McConnell  
Missy Mc Carty  
Steve Mc Farland  
Keith Mc Indoo  
Karen Mc Kay  
Bill Mc Kee



Jamie Mc Kenney  
Bill Meanna  
Amy Meissner  
Nicole Melick  
Marisol Melendez  
Jim Melros  
Richard Mero  
Julie Milak



Brendon Miller  
Jason Miller  
Ryan Miller  
Sonya Mitchell  
Jason Michel  
Kelli Moore  
Chris Morecki  
Linda Mylnowic



Scott Miyah  
Brian Nelsky  
Brendon Nelson  
Claudio Neri  
Alex Nekoski  
Shaun Newman  
Kevin Newton  
Matt Nicholas





**Marley Notes**  
Jason Nowak  
Jennifer Nowak  
Erik Obregon



**Kim Craft**  
Cork Ortega  
Adam Orze  
Becky Paine



**Maria Papadakis**  
Anna Papadakos  
Sarah Pashahn  
Candice Parker



**Michelle Parker**  
Samantha Parker  
Drew Parkis  
Lori Papaleoupolis



**Tanya Powl**  
Stephanie Peek  
Meagan Pendley  
Christina Petersen



**Marie Pobala**  
Christine Pierce  
Frank Pimentel  
Melissa Pineda



**Jason Pedorski**  
Melissa Petts  
Bridgette Preischok  
April Pratcher



**Kevin Preuss**  
Jennifer Price  
Rachel Price  
Ronda Price

# BROWN

**A**s a second baseman of the MHS baseball team Matt Brown has an attitude that everybody on the team should have. Matt says, "The game of baseball is more than a game. When you go out on the field, the other team is your enemy. If you don't go in with that attitude you have already lost."

Enemies are one thing that Matt Brown seems to lack. "I have much respect for my teammates because most of them are my friends." Besides having a goal to win the state championship his "ultimate goal in life is to impact a few people's lives and hopefully make them better people. That is why I am interested in becoming a teacher and a coach."



"I think the meaning in life is to help the ones that will follow in our footsteps. Being a teacher makes that possible." Helping people is what Matt Brown is determined to do.

This baseball player with a "very unique personality" has the ability to make you laugh or smile at anytime. "Most people can't predict what I am going to do next."

"The real me can be seen on the field." As Matt takes baseball seriously, he takes life one day at a time. This '96 graduate is dedicated as a result he "makes most of the plays defensively." As for the '95 baseball season Matt hopes to advance to state.

◆TRACY PARKER

**COULDNT'  
POSSIBLY  
BE BETTER**

# MELENDZ

*mari*

**R**eferred to by her friends as "Mari," Marisol Melendez is an individual as exceptional as her name. Mari is skilled in fields ranging from singing and dancing to modeling and acting. She utilizes these talents partly by singing in the all-girls show choir and modeling both for Southlake Mall and through an agent in Chicago. Mari also takes jazz and ballet dance classes, but prefers ballet because it is "the root of all other dances and it teaches you to be graceful."



Mari enjoys listening to almost all types of music, and names pizza as her favorite food. Her special talents include being ambidextrous, knowing how to read and write in Hebrew, and playing baseball with her male cousins. Mari has also had

some unusual experiences, including an attempt at horizontal bungee jumping and being given a personal invitation to a performance by the famous magician David Copperfield.

Mari transferred to Merrillville High School from Andream. She made the switch primarily because "they were strict about a lot of things that didn't really matter." Mari enjoys the learning environment at Merrillville High School more and finds her new teachers "more involved" with teaching. Despite the fact that she prefers to attend MHS, Mari still keeps in touch with her "Andream friends."

Mari's family consists of her sister Theresa, '95, three half-sisters, and a half-brother. In the future, Mari plans to go to college and major in "anything in the entertainment business." She plans on attending a state university for her first two years of college, then hopes to finish in Miami, Texas, or Florida. Another goal Mari has set is to grow to at least 5'9" because that's "the perfect height for modeling."

◆ **IRENE HALKIAS**

**P**ossible  
B e t t e r

Bart Pruzin  
Joe Pustelnik  
Mike Radicksi  
Carmen Ramirez



Bryan Romeo  
Jeffrey Rungeloff  
Anthony Reddick  
Jason Reed



Krystal Renchon  
Lynn Reyes  
Amanda Richardson  
Jason Rico



Dale Riddle  
Erica Ross  
Jacca Rivera  
Karen Robles



Amanda Ross  
Michael Rothgeb  
Lindsay Rueck  
Margaret Runion



Pamela Ruschak  
Maggie Samson  
Jaime Sonferino  
Brian Schiefer



Troy Schmidt  
Bradley Schulte  
Jeremy Schwandt  
Tywone Scott



Brennan Seigle  
Tayona Shadwick  
Monica Shaffer  
Heather Showers





Aaron Shellen  
Solomon Shih  
Matthew Siecker  
Theresa Sievers  
Corey Simmenn  
Andrea Simpson  
Jason Simpson  
Carl Sims



Melissa Slabotsky  
Gernot Smith  
Jaime Smith  
Eriyon Snelson  
Amy Soporek  
Sandra Soto  
Eric Sowell  
Natalie Speller



Eric Stipe  
Jill Stimate  
Lo'Shane Stanley  
Thomas Stanziene  
Angela Staszinski  
Marine Stith  
Melissa Stlanski  
John Stomper



Bryan Stone  
Sean Strickling  
William Summer  
Cristy Summers  
Matthew Sur  
Jared Taylor  
Lisa Taylor  
Tracy Taylor



Aurilia Tejada  
Theresa Terry  
William Thomas  
Erin Thompson  
Kelly Thorn  
Jessica Tolar  
Maria Trajkov  
Matt Trajkovski



Kristy Treck  
Rachel Turbifill  
Angelina Turkleski  
Michael Trajiles  
Teddy Umphress  
Christina Underwood  
Kelli Uebel  
Ryan Valentine



Lisa Van Berg  
Rachel Vanderveert  
Teala Vasileopoulos  
Marc Vassallo  
Mike Villanueva  
Jason Vilasic  
Nigel Wolter  
Daniel Woskensky



Jason Waage  
Kelly Webster  
Scott Wellested  
Sarah Wesley  
Corey West  
Felisa Weijns  
Cheridell Williams  
Foxton Williams

# RIDDLE

## dede

With her athletic ability and energetic attitude towards life, Dede Riddle is well on her way to fulfilling her major goal in life. This goal is to play volleyball as well as Angela Kirby, the number one beach volleyball player in the women's division. Riddle enjoys playing all kinds of sports, but most of all, she enjoys playing volleyball. As Riddle states, "I would love to play as well Kirby." Riddle, who for the past five years has been in volleyball, is presently a part of

the varsity team, finds the sport "Quite exciting!" Not only is she active in volleyball, but she also plays on the varsity basketball team, where she has been playing for five years. Although she enjoys both sports, her

true love is volleyball. "It keeps me in physical and mental shape and every player is active during the game." With four brothers and sisters already graduated from college, Riddle now shares the household with brothers Wally and Jimmy, both attending a nearby middle school, and sister Wava '97. When Riddle finds free time, which isn't too often due to the amounts of practice she has, she enjoys hanging out with her two best friends, Rhonda and Rachael Price, '96, by going to the movies and to the mall. Riddle likes to listen to the tunes of REM and the Cranberries. She also enjoys spending hours talking on the phone.

If Dede had one wish, it would be to grow a little taller. She states, "I don't like having people look down to find me." But if her height were as big as her aspirations, she would be up in the clouds by now.

◆ LAURIE WOJTCOWICZ

COULDNT  
**Possibly**  
Be Better



Savannah Williams  
Terriene Williamson  
Megan Wojciechowski  
Alpaz Wright

Angela Wasik  
Eric Youngren  
Jonathan Zukowski  
Linda Zaleski

Rebecca Zeledz  
Christine Zersich



◆ Kristal Renahan, '96, tries desperately to catch the ball during a powder puff practice. The juniors toppled the seniors in a grueling match that has been going on for years.

◆ Showing his spirit, Dave Janda, '98, shouts out during the first all-sports pep rally. Student Government sponsored the huge event.



Farnsworth photo

Farnsworth photo

# Underclass Not Pictured

Amber Allen, '96  
Cunkin Allen, '98  
Mary Pendle, '96  
Eric Feger, '96  
Barry Frank, '96  
Janis Brown, '98  
Tigress Brown, '96  
Yedelphish Brown, '97  
Colleen Engleke, '97  
Stephanie Edwards, '98  
Robert Farkas, '98  
Priscilla Castle, '96  
Kyan Cambalovich, '98  
Ragan Cleveringa, '98  
April Cook, '96  
Patsi Daniels, '97  
Andromia DeJesus, '97  
Greg Denham, '97

D'Andre Dennis, '96  
David Delves, '98  
Dony Edlebeck, '97  
Janis Flenz, '96  
Patricia Flenz, '98  
Hector Figueira, '97  
Angel Gutierrez, '96  
Josh Gray, '98  
Rey Gomez, '96  
Kordyn Grace, '96  
Eric Greene, '98  
Shawn Guapier, '96  
Robert Gutierrez, '96  
James Holey, '98  
Mike Hampton, '96  
Demetrius Harkless, '96  
Kim Hayes, '97  
Ken Hayes, '98

Chris Holden, '98  
Trevor Hunnington, '96  
Mike Iephorn, '98  
Angelic Hooks, '97  
Chendell Jackson, '97  
Cindy Jakulin, '98  
Keiger Johnson, '96  
Felipe Jones, '96  
Michael Johnson, '96  
Shilo Johnson, '98  
Deidre Johnson, '98  
Sarah Kotsler, '97  
Branden Kelly, '98  
Janet Kirby, '96  
Angela Laramie, '97  
Jason Leek, '97  
Dominic Lee, '98  
Robert Lewis, '97  
John Lopelols, '96  
Denise Lohman, '98  
Nichole Longay, '96  
Sara Lubinman, '96  
Melissa Lytle, '98  
Kevin Madison, '97  
Andrea Meppi, '98  
Ales Molinovich, '98  
George Mallon, '98  
Nicholas Marchak, '96  
Scott Meyer, '98  
DeMonte Millard, '98  
Morganne Mirecka, '98  
Jennifer Modestlo, '98  
Christopher Murray, '98  
Sam Olache, '96  
Brian Poine, '97  
Tel Porch, '98  
Frank Pule, '97  
Tony Prull, '98  
Garry Patterson, '96  
William Phillips, '96  
Lorraine Pioncoski, '96  
Shelaine Pinnell, '97  
Shawn K. Pinnell, '96  
James Rosholt, '98  
Douglas Robertson, '97  
Peter Rodriguez, '96  
Chris Sanchez, '98  
Jacob Sanderme, '98  
Forden Sanders, '96  
Cory Sadon, '97  
Derek Sherman, '98  
Kim Sherwood, '96  
Nathan Suckles, '97  
David Storkowski, '96  
Stephanie Steeon, '97  
Allen Smith, '97  
Billy Smith, '96  
Melelie Smith, '96  
Paul Staniszewski, '97  
Michael Stivak, '98  
Amy Stiebaugh, '97  
Een Stiebaugh, '98  
Cheryl Singler, '98  
Mike Stiger, '97  
Jeremy Sutherland, '98  
John Szalzer, '97  
Erick Taylor, '98  
Drew Thomas, '97  
Brian Tessmer, '97  
Antonio Tomas, '97  
Chris Velazquez, '97  
Jesus Villareal, '97  
Statonie Vlachos, '97  
Jason Vurua, '98  
Stephanie Wagner, '98  
Jean Walker, '97  
Niki Weigel, '97  
Tommy White, '98  
Andrew Whisled, '98  
Roger Wilson, '98  
Dominic Wood, '98  
Roxanne Wooller, '98  
Kim Young, '97

◆ Riding down Broadway, the Sophomore Class mounts their float during the annual Homecoming parade. The seniors took first in the float competition.



Faiebaugh photo

JUDY J. ADAMS-Choir 9; CWC 11; CWC Officer 11; Homecoming Court (Football) 11; Pi Beta Phi 11,12; Powder Puff 11,12; Prom Court 11; SSS 11,12; Peer 12; Student Government 11,12; Teacher's Ade 12; WI-MSH; Producer 12; Pom-poms 9; CCHS  
MICHAEL DAVID ADAMS,  
THAT AGILE,  
ARTHUR AGUILERA,  
EMILIE ANDERSON-Cheerleading 11,12; CFC 12; CWC 11,12; TEA 12; Pump Up the Volume 12; DSSN 11,12; Com-poms 9; From Committee 11; C/S 11,12; Student Government 9,11,12; Teacher's Ade 12; WMSI 5 11,12; Yearbook 11,12.



JAMIL AUBIN-NHS 9,10; Powder Puff 11,12; Track 9,10,11; Football Manager 11,12;  
DRAGO BABIC-Football 9;  
ERIN MARIE BACHICH-Choir 10; Key Club 10,11; NHS 9;  
NESTOR BACHICH-Pom-poms 9; Captain 9; Track 9;  
MONICA GLORIA BALZ-Office Ade 12; Powder Puff 10; Spanish Club 11; Volleyball 9;  
TRAVIS W. BAINEFELD.



JUNIOR BALDAZ-C-Football 9,11,12;  
JANICE BALDNER,  
JENNIE BAHADUR,  
IAN BARNETT-Cheerleading 12; Football 9; HRC 12;  
SAMUEL NICHOLAS BARNETT-Choir 9,10,11; NHS 9,10;  
NHS 11,12; Natural Helpers 9,11,12.



DAUNE BARKICK-Drama Club 11;  
JAMIE ANGELIQUE BARTOCH-CWSFL and 9,11,12; TEA 12; NHS 9,10; SSS 11,12; Pom-poms 9,11,12;  
JAMIE BARTZ,  
JCH & ELCWHS;  
DAVID NICHOLAS BELLER-Tennis 9,10.



JASON BEER,  
BEALETON ELEMENTARY;  
JENNIFER BEWLEY-TEA 12; NHS 11; Newspaper 9; Office Ade 10;  
Pom-poms 9,10,11; Captain 12; From Committee 11; Yearbook 12;  
VANESSA BIFFLE-AWSFL-Spanish Club 12; Student Government 12;  
Track Manager 11; Track 10,12;  
ERICA BLACK,  
CHENETTA BLACK-NHS-Football 9,10,11; Choir 9,10,11; Fall Play 9,10,11; French Club 10,11,12; NHS 9,10; NHS 11,12; Natural Helpers 11,12; Powder Puff 10,11,12; Enviro 10,12; Show Choir 12; Speech Team 12; Track 10.



CHELSEA J. BLACKWELL-Office Ade 10;  
SHELBY BOECKS-Football 9; Football 9,10,11; Office Ade 10;  
SHELBY BOEDTCHER-Football 9,10; Pom-poms 9; Powder Puff 10,11,12; Class Officer 11,12; SAAD 10; Student Government 9,11,12;  
Teacher's Ade 10,11,12; Tennis 10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10;  
THOMAS BOEDTCHER-Class President 12; CFC 12; Football 9,10,11,12; JE 11,12; NHS 9,10; M/S 11; Officer 12; Spanish Club 12; SAAD 10; Student Government 12; Track 10,11,12.





**STACY ECNEA**, NJHS 9; Pom-poms '93;  
Powder Puff '93; Teacher's Aide 11,12;  
DANCE/MAN-JETS 12.  
**ELIJAH EOCHEA-PABON** 9; HFC 12;  
Pom-poms 9; Yearbook 12.



**MICHAEL BRADLEY** 9; F and 9,10,11,12;  
CDC 12; FFA 12; Eleg. Corps 9; Pom-poms  
9,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12.  
**MISSISSAUGA ERTLENS** 9 and  
9,10,11,12; Drama Club 11,12; Full Flap 11,12;  
Jazz Impact 11,12; MCAT 12; SJS 9;  
MS 10,11,12; Frenzy 11,12; Spring Musical  
11,12; SAC 12; Thompson 11,12; Volleyball 9.  
**STEVE BREIDEN** HFC 12.



**RICHARD A. BROEDNER** German Club  
9,10,11; NJHS 9,10; NHS 11,12; Swimming  
11,12.  
**PAUL BROOKS**.  
**YOLANDA BROWN**.



**SARAH BRUNER** -Chair 9,10; NJHS 9;  
SUS 11,12; Soccer 12.  
**DAWN FUCHI** -C. Band 9,10,11,12;  
Basketball 9; NJHS 9; NHS 10,11; Pom-poms  
9; Pom-poms Captain 9; Soccer 10,11,12.  
**GISELAULZEVSKY** -Chair 9; HFC 12.



**SHANNON FUEVAC** -Spring Musical 11;  
Teacher's Aide 12; Yearbook 12.  
**JAMIE FUNKICH** -Art Club 12.  
**LAURE CANTRELLA** -Spanish Club 12; Student  
Government 12.



**KATHY CANNON-EP** 10; MPAC 12;  
Office Aide 10,11,12; Pom-poms 9,10,11; Spanish  
Club 10; Swimming 9,10,11; Captain 12;  
Teacher's Aide 10; Homecoming Queen  
(Basketball) 12.  
**CERISTIN ALEXANDRA WILSON** -Basketball  
9,10; Powder Puff 10,11,12.  
**JASON CHANDLER**.

# ADAMS

**B**esides trying to lead PNN, into a successful second year, Judy Adams, '95, somehow finds the time to also be involved with Student Government, Quill and Scroll, the honor society for high school journalists, WMHS club, and karate. But wait, that's not all this dedicated student has found time for. Adams also sets aside every Friday afternoon to go to Channel 56 and work in telecommunications, since it's her career of choice. After all that, somehow she still makes time for her family, all three sisters and two brothers! Not to mention hanging with Randy Brant, '96, who happens to be one of her best friends as well as her brother-in-law. Who else could do all this? There may be no other.

"Boo-tee," or so her friends call her, openly admits wanting to be an anchor for TV news and feels proud that she received the anchor of the year award at the first annual PNN awards. But she doesn't seem so candid when it comes to the bloopers she always ends up starring in. "They even included the time I was doing the weather in front of a blank chroma key screen!" she embarrassingly states. Whether it is at home, school, or even work, it seems that Adams has time for anything!

◆PATRICK FARABAUGH



**Couldn't Possibly Be Better**

# BLACKNELL

**S**he's friendly, she's outspoken, and she's trustworthy. This senior's name is Chennetta Denise Blacknell, '95. Blacknell has been a very active person throughout her high school career. Qualifying for National Honor Society through hard work and dedication, her grades and high GPA link her to this honor while, her participation in the French Club gave her a little extra experience before she travelled to France for the summer through



the I.U. Honors program. Blacknell is also involved with the community by participating in the Natural Helpers program. Some of Blacknell's talents include singing in the Vocal-Teens, dancing in the Revue, and participating in two school

plays. Along with this, her favorite subject is choir, and her favorite teacher is choir director Roger Emig.

Referred to by her friends as 'Netta', she has a unique personality that sets her apart from others. Blacknell feels that she has herself well analyzed. She admits, "I know what I want and go for it. I have a high self-esteem." This is one of her best qualities. After completing her high school education, her plans are to attend college in New York. Her goal is to be an interpreter with an emphasis on multiple languages. Blacknell also jokingly states one of her other goals, "To have a family with a famous NBA star, but I could settle for a pro-football player."

One important message Blacknell would like to leave is, "You have to love yourselves before you feel you are qualified to be loved. Respect, honesty, and appreciation of yourself and others is a nice way to begin."

◆ NANCY PAKOVSKI

Couln't  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

JAMIE CHILDRESS-Cheer 9t; Powder Puff 11,12; Soccer Captain 12; Spuds Club 11,12; SAUD 10; Football Manager 11,12; Sunshine Society 10,11; Color Guard Member 9t; JACK MICHAEL CHURCH-A; Basketball 7t; Cheerleading 12; Football 9t; Track 9t, 11,12; Soccer 9,10,11; Captain 12; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Track 12.

ANGELA CONCORDE-Cheer 9t; CFC 12; Drama Club 9,10,11; Color Guard, Fall Flug 10; French Club 10,11,12; JLT 11,12; NFS 10; Color Guard 12; Powder Puff 11,12; Prom Committee 11; Review 10,12; Speech Team 10; Spring Musical 9t; SCA 12; Student Government 11,12; Tennis 10,11,12; Thespians 11,12.

SAMANTHA COOKINGAN-Powder Puff 12; I-U, 10,11; Spanish Club 12; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 12.

HELY COUGHLIN-Spanish Club 9t; Speech Team 9t; SAUD 9,10,11; Football Manager 11,12.

ALAN CRAE-SALUM-Basketball 9,10,11,12; Football 10,11; Freshman 9.

NICOLE CRASS,

11,12; CULP-Football 9,10,11; Color Guard 10,11,12; Environmental Club 10,11; FEAT 11,12; French Club 10,11,12; Gell 9,10; Captain 11,12; FNN 12; Show Choir 11,12; Student Government 10,11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Vocal Teens 11,12.

MICHAEL CURRIE-Band 9t; Football 11,12; Pom-poms 10; WMB 9,11; AMY CUMMINGS,

JENNIFER DAINTON-Cheer 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 10; Color Guard 11,12; Fall Flug 10; Science Club 9,10,11,12; Speech Team 9,10,11; Spring Musical 10,11,12; Student Government 10; Teacher's Aide 12; Thespians 10; Color Guard 11,12.

DANIELA ANJANE SHAFER-Band 9t; Debate 10; MCA-Alt 10; NFS 9,10; NF 11,12; 1st Club 10; FC 11,12; French Club 10,11; German Club 9,10; NFS 11,12; FFL 10,11,12; Purple Pages 10,11,12; FNN 11; Predictor 12; Speech 9,10,11,12; Spell Bowl Team 10; Spring Musical 10; Student Government 10,11; Super Food-Academic Team 10,12; Thespians 10,11,12.

ALICE ETTE AVILA-Band 9,10,11; JLT 11,12; NFS 9,10,11; NF 11,12; One Food Team 10.

ELIZ DE LEON-Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Soccer 9,10; ANGELA EMALE,

FELICE R. ERICK-C-Football 9,10;

Powder Puff 10,11,12.





**KEVIN EL YUNG.**

MILAN DEZELICH -Wrestling 10; C: Spanish Club 10; Choir 9; FFA 10,11,12; Dem-pass 10,11,12; From Committee 10; Spanish Club 10,11,12; Officer 11; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 12.

SUMMER DICHEIN -CFC 12; Choir 9; FFA 10,11,12; Dem-pass 10,11,12; From Committee 10; Spanish Club 10,11,12; Officer 11; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 12.

LEAH FELT -Academic Decathlon Team 12; French Club 10,11,12; NJHS 9; NJ S 10,11,12; Powder Puff 11,12; Coed Bowl Team 11,12; Track 11; Volleyball 9,10,11; Yearbook 9.

DEVIN GOSS -Band 9,10; Games Club 12.



**KYLE EBERLE.**

MELISSA GELINE -CFC 10; FFA 10,11,12; GFF 9,10,11,12; MPAC 12; Powder Puff 12; Coed Club 10,11,12; Spanish Club 10; Teacher's Aide 12.

FARAH LEIGH GIVENS -Cheerleading 9; French Club 9,10,11,12; NJHS 9; Powder Puff 12; Swimming 9,10,11; Teacher's Aide 12.

JENNIFER HARGAN.

JENNIFER DUFLAG-A-Cheer 9,10; Environmental Club 10,11,12; Geronimo Club 10,11,12; Officer 11; FFA Club 10,11,12; NJHS 9; NJ S 10,11,12; Coed Bowl Team 11,12; Soccer Manager 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12.



LINDA ELLIS -CFC -Faulkner's Club 9; CFC 12; FEA 10; Flag Corps 10; NJHS 9; NJ S 10,11,12; Powder Puff 11,12; GFF 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 10,11; Coop 12; Yearbook 12.

ANGELA ELLER -TLCFC 12; FEA 12; Newspaper 12; Office Advisor 11; FNN 12; Powder Puff 10,11,12; From Committee 11; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Track 11,12; WMHS 9,12; Yearbook 11,12.

MATT ELLIS -Ath 11; FNN 10,11,12; Speech Team 11; Student Government 12; WMHS 9,11,12.

KEVIN EL YUNG -Basketball 9,10,11,12; Choir 9; Football 9,10,11,12; NJHS 9; NJ S 10,11,12; Morning Announcer 12; From Coast 11; Track 9,10,11,12.

JENNIFER ESCOTT -Band 9,10,11,12; FFA 10,11; Flag Corps 10,11,12; Captain 12; FFA Club 10; Powder Puff 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12.



**LEAH FELT.**

JASC 9,10,11,12; ZINSL 9.

JENNY FAHIN -FAULKNER'S FFA Club 10,11,12.

JAMIE FANIPS -Faulkner's Club 9; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; PATRICK JEFFREY FAUFAUGI -Choir 9; FFA 10,11,12; CWC 11; Officer 11; FFA 10,11,12; NJHS 2000, 12; Newspaper 11,12; FFA 10,11,12; FNN 11,12; From Committee 11; Pump Up the Volume 12; GFF 9,10,11,12; Secretary 12; FFA 10; SAC 11; Spring Musical 11; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Officer 11; President 12; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Yearbook 9,11,12; Editor-in-Chief 12.



BRETT FEDAR -Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9,10,11,12; Choir 9; Homecoming King (Basketball) 12; MPAC 12; Coed Club 11,12; Officer 11; Student Government 11,12.

SAEAF FELLS -SFL Choir 9; FEA 10,11; GFF 9,10,11,12; Powder Puff 12.

JESSICA FIGLER -CFC 10; Band 9,10,11; Basketball 10; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; FNN 11; Dem-pass 9; From Coast 11; FFA 10,11,12; Track 9,10,11,12.

GREGORY FLEMING.

MATT FLICKER.



**MICHELLE MARIE FOLEY.**

LEIGHANNE FOLEY -CFC 9; Academic Decathlon Team 12; Band 9,10,11,12; Environmental Club 10,11,12; Flag Corps 12; Geronimo Club 10; Officer 11,12; Jazz Impact 10,11,12; FFA Club 10,11,12; NJHS 9,10,11,12; Soccer Manager 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12.

PATRICK JANE FORTMAN -Band 9,10; Basketball 9,10; Soccer 12; Track 9,10,11,12; Student Trainer 10, 11, 12; Volleyball 9,10.

LORI VA FAITH FOLEY -SEASIDE NELL FANCY -Debate 10,11.

ELIAN FRANCUS -Art Club 9; Spanish Club 10,11; Student Government 10,11.

MARIANNE ERANG-Cheer 9; Pom-poms 9; Powder Puff

10,11,12; Spanish Club 10,11; Student Government 10,11.

SUSAN FRENCH-Cheer 9; Powder Puff 10,11; C.S.S. 11,12;

President 12; W.M.F. 11; Yearbook 11,12.

CARLOS FREVERT-Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impred 12; J.E.T.S 12;

SHS 11,12; Spanish Club 12.

LAFAH MARIA FRINK-Basketball 9,10,11; Cheer 9,10,11,12; FCA 12;

FFA Officer 12; Homecoming Queen (fallball) 12; D.P.N.N. 11,12; Pom-poms

9; Powder Puff 12; Prom Queen 11; Coed Club 11; Freshman 10,11,12; Show

Clear 10,11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 11; Soccer

Student Government 12; Soccer Manager 12; Vocal Teens 12;

CYNDI HAL-ERIC STEPHENSON 10,11,12; H.E.R.O. 12; Key Club 10;

Powder Puff 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 11; Teacher's Aide 10,11,

ALEX GALIC-Cheer 9,10; Debate 11; N.H.S. 9; N.H.S. 10,11,12;

SIMONE NETTE GALT 10.

CYNTHIA GARCIA-Band 9,10,11,12; Environmental Club 10;

Homecoming Court (Basketball) 12; Spanish Club 10,11,12; Speech Team

10; SAC 12; Student Government 10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10,11;

GABRIELA GARCIA-N.H.S. 11,12; Spanish Club 9,10;

RAQUEL GARCIA-Buddies' Club 9; Drama Club 10; Spanish Club

10,11,12; Spanish Club Officer 11,12; SADD 10,11;

Student Government 12.

TOMMY C. GASPERSON-Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 11;

HERO 12; Review 10; SAUD 9,10,11,12;

AMY J. GEUSSA-MPAC 12; Newspaper 11,12; F.P.N. 11,12; C.S.S.

11; Office 12; SADD 11,12; Track 9,10,11,12; W.M.F. 11,12; Yearbook 12;

DENISE GILFEE-Buddies' Club 9; Debate 9,10; Drama Club 9; Fall

Play 9; French Club 9,10,11; Newspaper 9; Office Aide 11; SAC 9;

Student Government 9; Tennis 9.

LENA E. GHILLIANI-Cheer 9,10,11,12; Newspaper 12; Show Choir 12;

JESSICA MARIE GHEMIL-Art Club 11,12; C.W.C. 11,12; Pom-poms

9; Teacher's Aide 11,12.

CHARLES GOIN,

DAVID GONZALES-Art Club 12; Office Aide 12;

CHEYL ANN GONZALEZ-Band 9,10; Class Secretary 10,11; C.P.C.

12; Cross Country Captain 11; Drama Club 9; Fall Play 9; N.H.S. 9;

N.H.S. 10,11,12; Pom-poms 9; Speech Team 10,11,12; Student Government

10,11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Thespians 9; Yearbook 9.

Gloria Marie Gonzalez 7-Cheer 9,10; Teacher's Aide 12

JENNIFER GONZALEZ-Spanish Club 12; Swimming 12;

Volleyball 10,11.

PAM GOOD-Cheer 9,10,11,12;

ANDANA GORDON-Band 9,10,11,12;

GORDANA GORGUCVSKI-Cheer 9; Office Aide 12; Powder Puff

12; Tennis 9,10.

MELANIE GOTCH-Teacher's Aide 11.

LAWRENCE GRIFFITH,

MICHAEL E. GUERNSEY-Basketball 10,11; Basketball Captain 9; Class Officer 11; FCA 12; Football 10,11; Football Captain 9; Student Aides 10,11,12;

CHRISTAL A. GUTHIER-Z-Cheer 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 9;

Swimming 9; Track 9,10.

VALERIE NICOLE GUTJAH-R-Cheer 9; D.P.N.N. 11;

Powder Puff 10,11,12; W.M.F. 9; Yearbook 12.

MICHAEL GUZMAN,

IRENE C. ANDROMAH HASLASS-Class Officer 10,11,12; C.P.C. 12;

Morning Announcer 10,11,12; MCAFF 11; N.H.S. 9; N.H.S. 10,11,12; Office 12;

Newspaper 9; Freshie Radio 11; F.P.N. 11,12; Powder Puff 12; Prom Committee

11; Rethinking Committee 10,11; Review 12; Speech Team 9,10,11,12; SAC

9,10,11,12; Volleyball 10; W.M.F. 9,10,11,12; Yearbook 9,10.





QUINCY HALL-HERO 12; Teacher's Aide II,D.

CHERYL HAMILTON,Clear 9,  
Gymnastics 10, FEF/C 12, Softball 9,  
KIMBERLY HARDWICK.



ANGELA M. HARRIS,CWC 12, Softball  
9,10; Teacher's Aide 10,11; Volleyball  
9,10,11,D.

MARCUS HARRIS,  
MELINDA HATFIELD.



KELLY M. HEGEDUS-German 9,10;  
NHS 9,10; Newspaper 9; Teacher's Aide 12;  
Yearbook 9.

CARRIE HEITMAN,FEC 12, Student  
Government 10, Track 9.

BRIAN HEBURN.



NICOLE APRIL HATT-COX,Country 9,  
10, 11, 12; NHS 9,10; Spanish Club 10;  
Tennis 9,10,11,D.

AMY HILL-MCALFIE HICKERSON,L.  
CWC 11,12; French Club 10,11,12; Foy Club  
11,12; MCAT 11,12; Newspaper 12; Powder  
Puff 11,12; SAC 11,12; SADD 11,12; Student  
Government 10,11,D.

ELLEN MELISSA HILL-MCAFFEE 12;  
Newspaper 12; Powder Puff 12; SAC 12;  
Student Government 12; Yearbook 10,11.



JESSICA HODGES-HALL 12; Pom-poms  
9,11,Captain 9.

CHRISTINE HOLGUITS-DUBOIS 9;  
German Club 11; JETS 12; NHS 9,10;  
SAC 11,12; Powder Puff 9; Softball 9; Speech Team  
9,10; Teacher's Aide 12.

BRIAN HOGAN-Baseball 9,10,11,12;  
Basketball 9,10; Football 9,10,11,12; JETS  
11,12; MDAC 12; NHS 9,10; NHS 11,12;  
Office Aide 12.



ETHAN HOUGH-Economics Club 10; Officer  
11,12; Fall Flag 11,12; French Club 10,11; Officer  
12; NHS 9,10; NHS 11,12; Pom-poms 9; Foyce  
10; Speech 10; Spring Musical 9; Student  
Government 10; Thespian 10.

JOSEPH M. HUSSEY-Basketball 9,10;  
Football 9,10,11,12; JETS 12; MDAC 12;  
NHS 11,12; Track 10,11,12.

# FRANCOS

dean & maria

**D**ean and Maria are each unique individuals. Their personalities always shine through to make them fun people to be around.

Dean is the older sibling. After high school, he would like to go to college and pursue a career that is now unknown. It sounds like a plan familiar to many of us, but his dream is to design a Corvette as his own. When asked if he will miss his sister, Maria, he says, "Yeah, I'll miss her, where's she going?"

To him, they get along "okay." In his spare time, he works and spends time with his friends. He states, "I'm never home." He's traveled five times to Greece, but likes vacationing in Florida better, as he says, "Florida's awesome."



Maria is a generous and outgoing individual. She describes herself by saying, "I'm a walking diary." She is a diary, but that is fine because her friends trust her enough to let her in on all the gossip. As of now she has her goals set for after high school. They are (in order): traveling the world, attending college, getting hitched, and moving to Greece. She has already been there seven times and loves it. She says, "If I could, I'd just take all my friends from the U.S. and just get up and leave for Greece." Her extra time is spent working, being active in church groups, and spending time with friends.

These are two very special people. Now if they could only stop fighting like most brothers and sisters!

◆ DEDRE ELIZONDO

COULDNT  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

# LENART

## michelle

The 7:35 homeroom bell takes its final toll as Michelle Lenart once again comes running through the door, hurdling mounds of books and coats piled on the floor. "Whew! I made it!" she exclaims. Yes, sports evidently do play a role in Lenart's career here at the high school. While she may not be the famous track star, her hard work in tennis has earned her an award for the Most Improved Player.



What else makes Michelle Lenart different from other people? "I believe it's my silly personality and the ability to make people laugh," she replies. This is definitely true coming from the girl

who has such a great sense of humor and vivacious personality. She remembers one time she made people laugh. "I was at the Spaghetti Factory when I slipped off my chair and hit my chin on the table. Everyone stopped eating to watch me." Two of the instances she easily recalls are all the great times she had on trips to Indianapolis with Nicole Hiatt, and tuning into the sounds of the Garth Brooks on the way to the museum.

Although she loves to have a good time, Michelle is taking her future very seriously. One of her most important goals consists of planning to attend Purdue University in the fall to study pharmacy.

◆ CARYN KRYSA

**P**Couldn't  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

MATT ALAN HYLER-Cheer 9; Football 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 12;  
EFCOUSA JACOBSON,  
ERIK C. JAMES-SVSY; End 9; Basketball  
9,10,11,12; Football 12; Homecoming Court  
(Embellish) 12; Homecoming Court (Cordial)  
12; Morning Announcer 12; Office Aide 12;  
Powder Puff 12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball  
9,10,11,



JEFF JAPPOWSKI-Football 12;  
LYNN JEFFRIES-Basketball 9,10,11;  
Chow 9,10,11,12; Powder Puff 10,11; Teacher's  
Aide 11,12;  
CHRIS JENSON-Teacher's Aide 11,12;

DAVID JONES;  
JEANETTE JONES-SADD 10,11;  
Track 10;  
MARK JONES;

MICHELLE JONES-Cheer 9; Pom-poms 9;  
Softball 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12;  
JOHN ANTHONY FADELL-Golf  
10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11; Powder Puff 12;  
WMHS 12;  
ANNA KAJMAK-CSPL-Cheer 9; Office  
Aide 10; Pom-poms 9,10; Captain 9; Elocution 12;

CYTHIA FAJMAK-CVSHP-Powder  
Puff 11,12;  
SARAH HENDRICK;  
NIM HENNEY-JETS 12; NHS 11,12;  
Softball 10; Speech 10,11,12; Student  
Government 10,11,12;

JASON FESTER-Cheerleading 12;  
ANGELA FILGUELA-Art Club 9;  
Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 12;  
Track 10;  
BRADLEY FIEVICHES.



**ERAD PCSAC.**

**CHELLE FOSMARA**-Band 9; Student Government 9; SUZANAL FOSTER-Cheer 9; German Club 10; NJHS 9; Debate 9; Poms 12; FNN 12; Powder Puff 11,12; Student Government 10; Teacher's Ade 12; Tennis 9; WMHS 12.

**MARK KRAIP**-OCZEL-Golf 9,11,12; STEVE M-SILVSEN-Football 9; Track 11,12.

**CARLY A. FRYSA**-Class Officer 9; FEA 11,12; Homecoming Court (Football) 12; NJHS 9; NJHS 11,12; Office Ade 12; Fnn-pens 9; Student Government 11,12; Teacher's Ade 1 Yearbook 12.

**ANDREW LURKOWSKI.**

**KICH LAFAYE.**

**ERIN E. LAIN**-Basketball 9,10; LFA Officer 12; Golf 10; Pirate Radio 11,12; FNN 12; Pom-poms 9,10,11; Powder Puff 11,12; From Committee 11; Soccer Manager 12; Teachers Ade 12; Tennis 9; Track 11,12; WMHS 11; Producer 12.

**PHILIP LAMMICH**-Baseball 12; Tennis 12.

**JAMES M. LASH**-LChoir 9; Football 9,10,11; SAC 12.

**SHERAL LAMMER.**

**ANGEL LLOCLUP**-Cheer 9.

**SHANI J. LOELLE**-Academic Decathlon Team 11,12; Debate 10,11; Environmental Club 10,11,12; German Club 11; JETS 12; NJHS 9,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 11,12; Science Olympiad 11; Speech 10,11; Spell Bowl Team 10,11,12; Student Government 12; Super Quiz Team 10,11,12; Tennis 9; Track 11,12; Yearbook 9.

**DANIEL J. LEPA**-Herc 12.

**MICHELLE CHRISTINE LENART**-Band 9,10,11; Basketball 9; Cross Country 11; NJHS 9; Tennis 9,10,11,12.

**MAKAY LENGYEL**-Band 9,10,11,12; Cheerleading 12; Choir 10,11,12; Football 11,12; Soccer 10,11,12; Show Choir 11,12; Vocal Team 11,12; TCM 11,12; LEPP-Band 9; Choir 9,10,11,12; Environmental Club 12; NJHS 9; Show Choir 11,12; Student Government 12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Vocal Team 12.

**MATH EW C. LESNIAK**-Basketball 9,10; Basketball 9; Cheerleading 12; Football 9,10,11,12; French Club 10,11; JETS Officer 12; NJHS 9,10; NJHS 11,12.

**HEATHER LESTER.**

**PHERREN LEWIS**-Clear 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 10; Pirate Radio 11,12; FNN 11,12; Show Choir 9,10,11,12; Vocal Team 9,12; WMHS 11; Producer 12.

**PHILIP W. LEWIS**-Chair 9; Football 9,10,11,12; Track 10.

**DAUL HAFI S. LEYBELL** 9.

**SARAH LYNN LUCIA**-Cheer 9; Newspaper 9; Swimming 9,10,11 Captain 12.

**SARAH E. LUCCHARE**-Key Club 10; Office Ade 12; Powder Puff 12.

**JOSEPH LECOMPT**-Cheerleading 12; Pirate Radio 11,12; WMHS 11,12.

**TRISTIN LYNN LUCIA**-Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Captain 9,10; German Club 10; Gymnastics 9,10,11 Captain 12; MPAC 12; Swimming 10,11,12; Teacher's Ade 12; Track 9,10,11,12; LJ, LUNE-Football 9,10,11 Captain 12; LFA 12; Homecoming Court (Football) 12; JETS 10,11; MPAC 12; NJHS 9,10; NJHS 11,12; Newspaper 12; FNN 11,12; From Fang 11; C/S 11,12; Student Government 10,11; Tennis 9,10; Captain 11,12; WMHS 11,12; Producer 12.

**RICHARD LYONS**-NJHS 9; NJHS 11,12; Office Ade 12.

**BERNARDO MADRINAN.**

**JEFILMY MAFEN,**

**BIANCA MALAWE-BPA** 10; Powder Puff 10,11,12; Spanish Club 10;  
Tennis 9,10,12.

**NANETTE S. MALEKICH-MPAC** 12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball  
9,10,11; Captain 12.

**LALRIE MANESS**, Band 9; Basketball 9,10,11 A,11,12; Morning  
Announcer 12; Newspaper 12; Chorus 10; Powder Puff 10,11,12; Guest  
Club Officer 11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Student Government 11,12;  
Teacher's Aide 12; Yearbook 12.

**ERIAN MANNING**, Band 9; Football 9; Games Club 11; JETS 12.



**SANDY MARSH,**

**CHRISTOPHER MARTINO,**  
TONYAMARIE MEC.

**EMMANUEL Mc CANN**, Choir 9,10,11,12;  
CORREY M. DEMICITI, Choir 10,11,12; Cross Country 10;  
Environmental Club 11; German Club 10,11; HERO 12; NJHS 9;  
Orchestra 9; Show Choir 11,12; Spell Bowl Team 10,11; Soccer/Football  
Manager 11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; Track 10.



**KEVIN MC GEE,**

**RICHLY MC MILAN**, Band 9,11,12; Basketball 9; Football 10;  
KEVIN MEH-AV.

**ELIZABETH ANN MIESSLER**, Choir 9; Teacher's Aide 11,12;  
MICHAEL MIKESELL, Football 9,10,11 Captain 12; Morning  
Announcer 12; Student Government 10; Wrestling 9,10,11,12 Captain 12.



**CURTIS MINCHUK,**

**LORI MODGUM**, Basketball 9,10,11,12; Clear 9; MPAC 12; NJHS  
11,12; Softball 9,10,11; Teacher's Aide 12.

**SCOTT MOLCHAN**, Diving 10; German Club 9,10,11; FFFC 12;  
Swimming 9; Teacher's Aide 11.

**MEGAN MCLOONE**, Basketball 9,10; French Club 10,11; JETS 12;  
Morning Announcer 12; NJHS 9; NJHS 11; Officer 12; Powder Puff 12;  
Science Club President 12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Student Government 11,12;  
Volleyball 9,10,11.

**DENISE MCCODY**.



**RALPH MCRAE JR.**, Office Aide 11; Track 10.

**LESLIE MICHELLE MCTEE-BPA** 12; Cheerleading Captain 9; Choir  
9; Natural Helpers 12; Office Aide 10; Powder Puff 11,12.

**LAWRENCE MURPHY**, Choir 9,10,11,12; Diving 10; Show Choir  
11,12; Vocal Team 10,11,12.

**MATTHEW NAVARRO**, Clear 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11;  
Show Choir 11; Yearbook 12.

**SIGNE NIELSEN**, Soccer 12.



**ERIKA NEL,  
TRIS SILES.**

**PAULINA F. NICLASCO**, Band 9,10,11; EEA 10,11; Eliza Corp 10;

DSN 11,12; Tennis 9,10,12; WMF 9,11,12.

**ADRIANNA NOVAKOVICH**.

**KONSTANTINAS S. NUSEKAS**.





**ELENA CECILIA VASQUEZ**  
**MARY CLIFFORD-Cheerleading 9,10,11,12;**  
**Captain 10,12; Class Officer 9,10; Choir**  
**9,10,11,12; French Club 10,11,12; MFAAC 12;**  
**SJHS 9,10; SJHS 9,11,12; Natural Helpers**  
**11,12; Prom-posal Captain 9; Yearbook 11,12;**  
**Powder Puff 10; Show Choir 11,12; Speech 9;**  
**Student Government 9,10,11,12; Track 10,11,12;**  
**JCYC 9,11,12; Chelsea 9;**  
**Powder Puff 11,12.**



**MERISTINA MARIE CISCOMA-Academic**  
**Decathlon Team 11,12; Environmental Club 10**  
**Coffee 11,12; MIAA 11,12; SJHS 9,10,11,12;**  
**Natural Helpers 10,11,12; Orchestra**  
**9,10,11,12; Our Food Team 10,11,12; Speech**  
**10; Spell Bowl Team 10,11,12; Super Quiz Team**  
**10,11; Yearbook 9;**  
**SAF-AFRC 9; GFGCN 10,11,12; SADD 9;**  
**Sunshine Society 11;**  
**EL JAMAL 10; CFTL GCN 10; Baseball 9;**  
**Basketball 9, Office Aide 12.**



**JASON RAY CROWELL-FIRE 11,12;**  
**TYSON CROWELL-Football 9; Cellbell**  
**9,10,11,12; SJHS 9,11,12; Wrestling**  
**9,10,11,12;**  
**NANCY PACIOLI-CHEER 9; EEA 11,**  
**President 12; French Club 12; SJHS 9,10,11,12;**  
**Prom-posal 9,10; Captain 12; Powder**  
**Puff 10; Prom Committee 11; Student**  
**Government 10,11,12; Teachers' Aide 11;**  
**Yearbook 12.**



**KATHRYN MAE DAHL-Cheer 9,10,11,12;**  
**SJHS 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 12; Show**  
**Cheer 10; Teacher's Aide 11; Tennis 9,10,11;**  
**Volleyball 9,10;**  
**TRACY PARKE-LA 11,12; Powder Puff**  
**10,11,12; Track 10,11; Yearbook 12;**  
**EVAN PARKE-CHEER 9,10,11,12; Football**  
**9,10,11; Captain 12; Homecoming Court**  
**(Football 9,10,11,12; Prom Court 11;**  
**Track 9,10,11,12.**



**MARY PARSONS,**  
**DESSAWACHEVICH-Powder Puff 11,**  
**Student Government 9;**  
**LUCINDA FAZ-Cheer 9,10,11,12; Powder**  
**Puff 10; Spanish Club 10.**



**DIANA PAPKOVICH,**  
**SETHY DIAZ-Cheer 9,**  
**ELISABETH-Student Government 12.**

# BACHICH Erin

**B**ugging my parents for money" is one thing Erin Bachich is going to miss about high school. The one thing that some of her friends missed early during high school was her. Returning from Bakersfield, California, Bachich came back to finish high school and will graduate with her class. In the beginning of the year Erin was to graduate mid-term, her friends and family influenced her to stay for her whole senior year. She is in no hurry to grow up.

Leaving

Merrillville for two years and coming back, she admits that the "people have changed, some for the better, some for the worse." But moments such as her most embarrassing have remained the same. "My

brothers used to interview guys over the phone before they let me talk with them." "They are so over protective, but I learned a lot from them," and if that's not bad enough, "My bra broke during a pom routine, and it was half way hanging out of my sleeve." Planning to attend California State, these moments will never be forgotten.

As for a family outlook, she stated, "I want no kids because I want nice things. I want to wear the pants in the house and make more money than my husband." Looking forward to becoming "more independent," she's searching for a guy who is not a kiss up, boring, and could put up a good argument. "I think I found him but he is 2500 miles away."

From her most embarrassing moments to her most exciting, Merrillville is filled with memories that she will never forget.

◆ TRACY PARKER

**COULDN'T  
Possibly  
Be Better**



# RIVERA

**sid**

**W**ho is that?" some would inquire as the domineering presence of Sidney Rivera walks by. He's kind of small, but he has a sense of style and confidence that attracts your attention almost immediately. You barely have time to associate with the guy considering his busy schedule with sports and activities. "I grew up with baseball," comments Rivera, "and I play tennis because I like the feeling of



being alone against another opponent. Plus both take a lot of concentration." But on that rare occasion that you get to actually have a conversation with this intriguing senior, you will come to realize what an extraordinary person he definitely is.

"I believe that you shouldn't have to follow people. Have your own ideas, and if you want something I believe that you have to go out and get it." Words to live by, according to Rivera. By just observing him, you can see that he is his own person, a leader, not a follower. His plans after graduation consist of going to college and getting a well paying job. If any girls think they might be interested in this Spanish stallion, he likes girls that don't put on an act, who can be themselves, and like to have fun. Oh yeah, and he has a great voice! Singing is one of his many talents.

◆ KIMBERLY ANDERSON

Couldn't  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

CWNS PERKINS-Office Adm II,D; Card Club Officer IC,  
MARY PERCSEY-Sunshine Society II,D;  
ERIC PETERSON,



PAWELE PETROVSKY;  
ELIZABETH PIAZZA-Art Club II,D;  
German Club IC,II;  
DIONNE PLASENCIA,



MELISSA POLEN-Teacher's Adc IO,  
DAN PRICE-Ad Club II,D; Office Adc II,  
JENNIFER RACH-FCD;



MAHLEEN VERONICA RAIS-FPA  
12; FFA 10,11,12; Spanish Club IO,II,D,  
DANIEL ALICE RAMIREZ-FZ-10A;  
Homecoming Court (Basketball) 12; Dem-poms  
9,10,11 Capton 12; Fossie 11,D; Spanish Club  
IO,II; Officer 12; Student Government II,D;  
Swimming 9;  
ERIC C. RANDOLPH-F-9;  
German Club 9,10; Swimming 9,10,11,D.



JENNIFER LYNN RASCOE-L-EAT II,  
Newspaper 9, Quel Club II, Yearbook 12,  
HIS Leader G,  
RASHEE REED,



RYAN KEITH-L-Homecoming Court  
(Basketball) 12;  
LEANN RICHMOND-Clear 9,10;  
Swimming 12;  
TRICIA HEIMANN,





**VAN EKSTOVSKA**  
**SIDNEY W. FIVEL**-All-Festival 9,J,C,I,D; Choir 9,J,C,I,D;  
 Homecoming Court (East) 12; NHS 9,J,C; Show Choir 12;  
 Tennis 9,J,C,I; Captain 12; Wrestling 9,J,C,  
**ALIE FOWELL**-E-H-C-L,Z,C-cheerleading 9,J,C,I,D; Captain 12; Choir  
 9,J,C,I; FCAD 12; FEAD 12; Homecoming court (Festival) 10,J;  
 Homecoming Princess (Festival) 11,D; Morning Announcer 9;  
 Natural Helpers 10,J,L,D; Powder Puff 10,J,I,D; Pump Up the  
 Volume Chairperson 12; Student Government 9,J,C,I,D; Officer 9;  
 Teacher's Aide 12; Track 9;  
**JENNIFER C. FRASER**-  
**LINDA J. GOSS**-  
**KRISTIN L. JOHNSON**-



**JONATHAN D. ROMWEK**-German Club 9,J,C,I,D; Golf 9,J,C,I,D;  
 JE 15 I,D; MFA 12; Natural Model Fundraiser 12; NHS 9,J,C,  
 NHS 11,D; CAS 12; Student Government 12; Yearbook 9,J,L;  
**LINDA J. GOSS**-  
**KRISTIN L. JOHNSON**-  
**JENNIFER C. FRASER**-  
**MICHAEL J. SCHAEFER**-  
**MATT SELL**-Band 9; Dancing 9,J,C,I,D; German Club 10,J;  
 SAU 9,J,C,I,D.



**FRANCIS D. SETTIMI**-ES-FHA 9,J,C,I,D; Officer 12; Newspaper 9;  
 Powder Puff 11,D;  
**SAMANTHA SHEPPARD**-Cheerleading 9,J,C,I,D; Choir  
 9,J,C,I,D; Senior's Aide 10; Powder Puff 11,D; Show Choir 12;  
**JOHN S. SHULTZ**-  
**JONATHAN D. SHULTZ**-Cheerleading 12; Choir 9,J,C,I,D; Football  
 9,J,C,I,D; Show Choir 12; Vocal Treble 12;  
**THOMAS MICHAEL SILLUTZ**-Cheer 9,J,C,I,D; Football 10,J;  
 2000 12; Soccer 9; SAU 12; Officer 9,J,C,I,D; Vocal Team 10.



**ELIZABETH ANN SIMUNIC**-Cross Country 9,J,C,I,C; Captain 12;  
 NHS 9,J,C; Powder Puff 12; Speech 12; Student Government 10,J,H; Teacher's  
 Aide 12; Tennis 9,J; Track 10,J,D;  
**EVAN SMITH**-Football 9,J,C,I,D; Teacher's Aide 12;  
**LAUREN SMITH**-  
**ELIJAH SCAMMERS**-Academic Decathlon Team 12; Drama Club  
 11,D; French Club 10,J,I,D; MFA 12; NHS 11,D; Powder Puff 11,D;  
 Tennis 9,J,C,I,D;  
**JIMMY SCHILLI**-SPL.



**JENNIFER KATHLEEN SPITZ**-NHS 9,J,C; Powder Puff  
 12; Softball 9,J,C,I,D; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 12;  
**JODI SPRINGMAN**-Band 9,J,C; Drum Major 11,D; Jazz Impulse  
 11,D;  
**SARAH STAGE**-Swimming 10;  
**JOLIE STAWITZ**-Basketball 12;  
**RICHARD STAWITZ**-Cheer 9,J,C,I,D; Cross Country 9,J,C,I,D;  
 Captain 12; NHS 9,J,C,I,D; Show Choir 11,D; Student  
 Government 9,J,C,I,D; Track 9,J,C,I,D; Vocal Team 11,D.



**KRISTIN L. JOHNSON**-  
**MELISSA ANN STETTLI**-Bull's Club 9; CWC 12; Drama Club  
 10,J,D; Drill Team 11; Flag Club 10; Quod Club 10; Future 11,D; Spring  
 Musical 11,D; SAU 9,J,C; Teacher's Aide 10,J,I,D; Thespians 11,D;  
**KONNASTA JSWAL**-VJ 11;  
**KATHLEEN STRAWHURN**-Academic Decathlon Team 11,D; Debate 10;  
 German Club 11,D; MFA 11,D; Speech 11; Tennis 9,J,C;  
**NICOLE STEGMAYER**-HFC 10,D; Teacher's Aide 11.

**ROBIN STUDAR**,  
**CARRIE SULLIVAN-NHS 11,D; Teacher's Aide 12;**  
**JASON EDWARD SURDZIAK-Choir 9,10,11,D; NHS 12;**  
**Basketball Manager 10,11,D;**  
**JEANNETH SMITH-C.**  
**SHANE SZOL**



**VESNA TANASIC-SKL**,  
**CLAU TAPEN,**  
**REBECCA THALING,**  
**MICHAEL THEIS-Chair 9, JETS 12; Soccer 9,10,11,12;**  
**VALENTINA TODEKOSKA-Newspaper 11,12; Powder Puff 10,11;**  
**CAS 11,12.**



**CHRIS TOMICO,**  
**BRIAN TRINETTE-Living 10; Golf 10,11;**  
**VLADY TRIFESKI,**  
**TANJAREE TURNER-HFRC 12;**  
**MARYANN VALE-NHS 9, Newspaper 9, Office Aide 11, Pom-poms Captain 9, Powder Puff 12.**



**AMANDA VAN DUSSeldorf-Choir 9, Fall Play 9, Office Aide 11, Powder Puff 10, Show Choir 9, Spring Play 9,**  
**DIANNA L. VAN DUSSeldorf-Office Aide 11, Powder Puff 10,12,**  
**GARY VAN VOLKMER-GF,**  
**BERNADETTE VARGAS-Band 9,10,11; EPA 10,11,D; Spanish Club 11,12,**  
**SCOTT VAUGHN-GO.**



**ANDREA VASAS-Basketball 9, Office Aide 12, Pom-poms 9,**  
**NADIA CHRISTEL VILLEGAS-Band 9,10; Big Corp 11,D,**  
**MICHELLE VIREB-Choir 9,10,11,D; Drama Club 10, Office 11,12;**  
**Fall Play 10,11; NHS 9,10; NHS 11,12; Pom-poms 9,10; Review 11,12;**  
**Show Choir 11,12; Speech 9,10,11,D; Spring Musical 10,11,D; Student Government 11; Thespians 10,11,D; Vocal Ensembles 11,12;**  
**JIM VELMILLIC-~Basketball 9, Teacher's Aide 12,**  
**CARLOS VILLANUEVA-Art Club 11; Lacrosse 11,12; Office Aide 12.**



**VANESSA SUE VIRGO-HFRC 11,D; Teacher's Aide 9,11,**  
**AEGI-ALL U.N.I.C.-Basketball 10,11; Builders' Club 9; Class President 10,11; Cheer 9,10,11,D; Fall Play 9; FHA 11; NHS 9; Pom-poms 9;**  
**From Committee 11; Review 10,11,D; Speech 12; SAC 10,11; Student Government 10,11,D; Basketball Manager 11; Volleyball 10,**  
**ELIANE VUCHO-**  
**CHI-SU VUH-**  
**DAVID WALLA.**





**ERIC-A-MAHE WALLA**, President IJC, D2; Cheering IJC, Captain D2; Gelf DJC, D2; NJHS 3; NHS 1,2; Com-poms 3; From Committee II; Tennis 3;  
**ELENA WALI**, IJC-S, Captain IJC, D2; EEA D2; German Club 1C; Gelf 3,4; From Cheering Court (Fankette) 11; From-jons 11,2; From Committee II; Spanish Club D2; Tennis 3,4C.  
**MALCY WEILLS**.

**ALAN JAMES WELZIN**, President IJC, D2; Cross Country 3,4C; ITAC Athlete 3; Football 3,4C; Jazz Impact 3,4C, D2; Track 3.

**PELLETTA WILLIAMS-MCAFFIE** 12, Newspaper 12, Spanish Club II; SAC 12, THES 12; **WILLIAMS-JEANNE** IJC, D2; Jazz Impact 3; Teacher's Aid 11, D2.

**MILE WISMEYER** Self-cellball IJC, D2, NJHS 3; NHS 1,2; Newspaper 3,4D; PNN 12; Our Food Team 3; Student Government 1C; Teacher's Aid 11; Wall 3,4C.  
**LAI LIE WU** JC, WIC 3; Art Club 12; ITA 12; NJHS 1,2; CANS 12; Four 12; Spanish Club 12; Student Government 11,12; Teacher's Aid 1C; Tennis 3; Track 1C; Yearbook 12.  
**JILL WYATT-COCE** 12; Powder Puff 1C,11; Student Government 11.

**JOSH WYELL** IJC, D2; WMHS 12, EFA 1A, VAMERISA, Cheering 3,4B; Newspaper 3,4C, Elder-In-Chief 1D, VANSASSAYAFCS-Drama Club 1C.

# HALKIAS

**F**un, determined, and daring are just a few qualities that describe this unique personality. Irene Halkias, '95, comments, "When people really get to know me, they are shocked at how crazy I act since I appear to be so normal."

Calling her "involved" would be an understatement. While busy delivering speeches, participating in student government, working on the student advisory committee, reading the morning announcements, attending her church youth group, leading the Maids of Atherras greek sorority, or even playing volleyball, you won't catch her with a dull moment. Not only is she President of the National Honor Society, Halkias is currently Vice-President of the senior class as well.

Because she is so greatly involved, students can easily recognize her face on Friday mornings, during the PNN broadcast.

Halkias plans to obtain a graduate's degree in psychology. She wants to live up to her potential. "I will utilize the talents I have, and do the best I can to leave the world a better place than I found it. I want to enjoy life, and always try my hardest."

♦LAURIE MANESS

COULDN'T  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

# Activity Abbreviations

BPA Business Professionals of America

CFC Commencement Planning Committee

FCA Fellowship of Christian Athletes

FEA Future Educators of America

FHA Future Homemakers of America

MCAIF Multi-Cultural Awareness Task Force

MPAC Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council

NHS National Honor Society

NJHS National Junior Honor Society

PNN Pirate News Network

Q and S Quill and Scroll

SAC Student Advisory Council

SADD Students Against Driving Drunk

WMHS Broadcasting Club

# ZOLONDZ

julia

**W**hat can one say when talking about Julia Zolondz? Try outgoing, funny, smart, and active. Definitely active.

Zolondz is involved in many clubs and organizations. She is currently in NHS, MCATF (Multi-Cultural Awareness Task Force), Concert Choir, Show Choir, VocalTeens, newspaper, secretary in Drama Club, and the vice president of Quill and Scroll.



When the weekend comes she's like every other student. She likes to go to the movies, hangout with her friends, and an occasional trip down to Ball State tops her do-list.

What's

her most memorable moment? "When I had to order my announcements. That's when I thought to myself - wow! I'm going to graduate, I'm really going to graduate!" she shyly stated.

Zolondz, feels that choir director Roger Emig has had an influence on her life. Zolondz commented, "He's really put a lot of confidence in me over my junior high and high school years. He's really opened my personality and helped me through some tough times."

Zolondz, plans on attending Ball State University where she wants to major in Magazine Journalism and minor in Telecommunications.

And what is her goal for this year? Well, to make it through the year without getting senioritis too badly.

◆ AMANDA RICHARDSON

Couldn't  
**Possibly**  
Be Better

LISA FAWCETT-Cheer 9; J.C.; EPA II;  
Teacher's Ade II,D;  
MISTY LYNN YOUNG-Cheer 9; J.C.; D;  
PEP CO. Teacher's Ade II;  
ALISAMA ALIE ZAF-Cheer 9; Diving II;  
Captain 12; Gymnastics 9; J.C.; II; Captain 12;  
Homecoming Court (Football) 12; Powder Puff 10; Softball  
10; J.C.; II,D.



TELLY ZADINSKI-Cheer 9; MPAC 12;  
Soccer 9; J.C.; Captain 9; Tennis 9;  
FIREIGHTER 12; ZEPHYR-Squad  
9; J.C.; II,D; Jazz Impsd 9;  
MSI 10; Powder Puff 10;  
SUSAN ELITE ZIEHL-Cheer 9; Natural  
Helpers II,D; Powder Puff II,D; Softball 9;  
Teachers Ade 10; J.C., II.



JULIA ZOCCHETZ-Cheer 9; J.C.; D;  
Drama Club 10; Officer II,D; Flag II,D;  
Morning Announcer II,D; MIC-ADE II,D;  
NEWS 10; Newspaper 10; D; Pinde Eddie 10;  
DNN 10; CAN 10; Fiber 10; House  
10; J.C.; D; Show Choir 10; Spring Flag 10; D;  
Student Government 10; Tennis 9; Thompson  
10; Officer II,D; VocalHearts 10; WNBIS  
II,D.



## Seniors

## Not Pictured

LORRAINE RAHELLE AHLEN-Ford 9; BRIAN ANDREW BICE-HERC 12; Teacher's Ade 12;  
DANNY BOYD, JERRY BUGG, TINA CASTILHANO'S-Basketball II; Diving 10; Cuest Club  
10; Spanish Club 11; STEVE CLOPPY, MICHAEL CLAFFE, CRISTY DOSSEMA, JONATHAN DRAKE, IVAN DRESTRAS, SERGIO GAVAN,  
SHAWN GARCIA, MATTHEW GILL, DALYL GOELON, DAVID A. GEFFENBERG-Ford 11; D;  
Drama Club 11; Flag 10; D; Dugout Corps 12; German  
Club 9; J.C.; JEF FLAG 10; JES 10; J.C.; Chair  
Board Team 11; D; Review 10; Swimming 9; D; Swimming 12;  
MIKE FARNSWORTH, JOINTINA FAHRIS-HERC 12;  
JASON R. FETINE-Ford 9; J.C.; A.V. Ade 12; BEH  
IELEY, CHEYI A. JOHN, JOE HENDRICK,  
DAMIEN LIPKE, JASON L. KNIGHT-Erg Club 11;  
JEREMY KRUGER, KIMBERLY KASHIF,  
JUSTIN SUCITA LYONS, ELLI JANA  
MAHALCASEA, JASMIN MAIAS, HEYNA  
RAY, PHILIP MEENEZA, TOBIASMEUX, KARI  
NEVER-Cheer 9; Tennis 9; Coach 9; Michael

MILITARY VETERANS-Newspaper 12; ESTHIAN MUNIZ,  
DANNY MUSIC-CASEL-HERC 12; LAUREN  
NEFLUKOVIC, RISH NIKESRI, CLAUDEMIX,  
Tracy 9; ROBERT OLENICKI, NICK  
O'CIEL, VERA OSTJIC-HERC 12;  
RAYMOND PAZ, TOMISAV RISTIC,  
NATUASHA REEKS, CRAYTON  
ROBISON, HMERLY ROBISON, RIA  
ROBISON, CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ,  
CLAUDIA RODRIGUEZ, TUCIANA C.  
RODRIGUEZ, Cheer 9; Homecoming Court (Football) 12;  
Homecoming Princess (Basketball) 10, NJHS 9, Officer Ade  
II, Powder Puff 12, Cuest Club 10; EVAN REGGES,  
THAIDER SEWARD, MARIE STANISZEWSKI,  
Fund II; Diving 11; Drama Club 10; Jazz Impsd 11; Newspa-  
per 12; Spanish Club 9; J.C.; Swimming 11; Teacher's Ade 12;  
WES STAERICK, JENNIFER LEE VEGA-Cheer  
9; J.C.; Diving 10; Nurse's Ade 11; Fan-gons Captain  
9; SEANNA WITCH, JEFFREY WELLS,  
DANTE WILLIAMS, HEATHER WILLIAMS, SICK  
ZAHOMAS, JOSH ZELTER.



Farnborough photo

♦ Having their crazy picture taken, Lori Foreman, Chris Hockells, and Irene Falkos, all '95, get ready before the actual shooting. The group also tried a human pyramid.



♦ It's the "Pherren and Erin Show" starring who else but Pherren Lewis and Erin Lain, both '95. The two were known for their radio show and were also producers in charge of the radio station their senior year.



Farnborough photo

♦ Members of the senior homecoming court, Luciana Rodriguez, Caren Bryson, Queen Leah Frank, Alisa Zoh, and Erin Janevsky, all '95, receive roses for their participation.



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY—Row 1: Jared Tabor, Ted Umphress, Greg Pierson, Jason Tabor, Mike Villanueva. Row 2: Brian Frey, Andy Belush, Lehman Best, Rich Staszinski. Row 3: Matt Johnston, Rick Mezo, Aaron Malerich, Tom Aliff, Dave Kamano.



GIrlS CROSS COUNTRY—Row 1: Jill Harms, Liz Simunic, Jessica Vargas, Albert Snowden. Row 2: Cheryl Gonzalez, Jessica Figueiroa, Michelle Hogan, Marianne Maj.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 78—Row 1: Chris Hedges, Joe Eich, Adonis Scott, Drew Seydel, Paul Virgo, Row 2: Nick Holm, Steve Lopez, Naam Donecki, Josh Fratina, Matt Pavlovich, Matt Anacletico, Eric Beale, Row 3: Eddie Roman, Jason Corriveau, Erik Herbert, Asst. Coach Troy Clark, Jeremiah Rodriguez, Nik Ristevski, Rosell Manning, Row 4: Eric Chapman, Sam Berkman, Mike Hanke, Matt Sparacio, Craig Demaree, Jorge Alcozer, Bret Romeo, Jessie Hernandez, Jay Lacny, Row 5: P.J. Montolone, Matt Egner, Daniel Spencer, Pete Novakowski, David Janda, Andy Kendera, Mike Curtis, Zoran Pespotoski, Terrance Boyd, Matt Austin, Duray Lawrence, Rich Madsen, Ryan Francis, Andy Byrom, Mike Brewer, Joe Konefall, Ron Russell.

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**GIRLS GOLF:** Coach Walla, Sarah Felinski, Missy Dobis, Erica Walla, Kelly Meeks, Megan Dixon, Carolina Procter, Coach Mike Hackett.



Fathers Row 1: Danielle Ramirez, Jennifer Bewley, Nancy Packovski, Row 2: Abby Vivo, Summer Dicken, Michelle Braden, Kelly Walters, Jamie Bartochowski, Row 3: Kathy Bartochowski, Diana Hammer, Angie DeSouza, Shanae Monk, Melinda Marie, Bonnie McFarland, Row 4: Emily Barnett, Kristy Malast, Amanda Buda, Cathy Gillmore, Row 5: Nicole Paniagua, Barnett Har-Nes, Nicole Rakich, Elisabeth Black, Kelly Melinn, Natalie Conner, Christina Gargano. Not Pictured: Kristy Trock, Melissa Clark, Melissa Soniat, Erin Price



JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS SOCCER: Row 1: Kayvann Karimi, Adam Vadas, Sergio Medellin, Fred Buck, JR Medellin, Emmanuel Kazonis, Bob Kosteski, Steve Rivera, Jeff Fairbairn, Steve Kavios, Row 2: Coach Tim Thompson, Steve Karson, Jon Talbot, Nick Wright, Nick Gonzalez, Josh Gross, Bill Fairbairn, Jeff Cseke, Jake Gross, Sean Buck, David Rainey, Coach Dragos



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER: Row 1: Correy McDermott, Freddie Buck, Mark Lengyel, Hank Pimentel, Ben Jarvis, Eric Forester, Jake Gross, David Rainey, Mike Tyrikos, Jenny Dupлага, Row 2: Coach Dragos, Mike Ristevski, Johnny Miller, Kevin DeYoung, Robert Zimnowoda, Terry Zaplinski, Mike Thien, Warren Conner, Josh Gross, Chris Dimitroff, Coach Tim Thompson



JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER: Row 1: April Pratscher, Rebekah Jusko, April Connelly, Jamie Ulbrich, Candice Parker, Kathi Gaines, Michelle Flores, Aubrey Kelley, Row 2: Coach Bob Bergeson, Mary Johnson, Jennifer Roames, Tanya Taleff, Signe Neilsen, Deanna Semovski, Delphine Wedding, Michelle Vasilevski, Kelly Dahlin, Coach Randy Conner

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**VAR-SIV GIRLS SOCCER:** Row 1: Sarah Camery, Kate O'Sullivan, Jill Matusik, Kari Forster, Mandy Sopko, Jamie Childress, Betty Todoroska. Row 2: Coach Bob Bergeson, Coach Randy Conner, Sara Bruner, Natalie Conner, Alexandra Zestanakis, Andrea Simpson, Lena Cole, Kati Foreman, Dawn Buchko, Stephanie Peek.



**CARS SENIORS 2003 TEAM:** Row 1: Krista Toth, Jennifer Sanders, Morgan Gray, Sara Litty, Litzy Navarro, Beth Scheffer, Keri Wilson, Katie Wilson, Row 2: Stacy Brown, Megan Pendley, Stephanie Niclou, Erin Roth, Jennifer Gonzalez, Natasha Via, Row 3: Maegan Krisko, Stephanie Sperka, Dierdra Keilman, Amanda, Stephanie Haflyak, Christine Forrest, Elina Malave, Row 4: Coach Mary Diamond, Amy Fry, Kristen Lucas, Cathy Cannon, Corinth Argenta, April Perroni, Coach Shawn McCarthy, Row 5: Lindsey Mandich, Brynn Pendley, Coach Bryan Angerman, Lisa Zaki, Leanne Richmond, Missy Potts



**BOYS TENNIS:** Row 1: Coach Ferrar Levinson, Nick Corea, Adrian Ramirez, Valante Petalsas, Sam Vasenwales, T.J. Stochel, Jeremy McClain, Chris Milesos, Sid Rivera, Mike Igartia, Nester Rivera, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Row 2: Jimmy Metros, Ryan Brown, Josh Larson, Tom Lepp, Philipp Lammich, T.J. Lux, Joe Moore, Sean McConnell, Kevin Emmet, Jack Dettaven, Jon Garcia



FLEMING VCH Varsity: Row 1: Ashley Dobis, Alexia Stath, Christina Navarro, Row 2: Arleen Sattler, Deanna Gookman, Tina Owen, Grace Escamilla, Elisa Baez, Row 3: Coach Amy Beckham, Kristle Welsh, Coach Colleen Collins, Elena Bielawski, Coach Lorri Covacut.



JESSE VALSIV VCH Varsity: Row 1: Erin Price, Janell Deem, Alisa Perin, Row 2: Stephanie Valse, Jenny Yukin, Sam Dimoff, Sarah Frink, Natalie Nimon. Row 3: Coach Colleen Collins, Valerie Pratcher, Coach Lorri Covacut, Kris Burke, Coach Amy Beckham.



VASHTI VCH Varsity: Row 1: Coach Lorri Covacut, Sharon Segevich, Coach Colleen Collins, Row 2: Beth Zak, Dede Riddle, Wava Riddle, Angie Harris, Row 3: Nan Malerich, Row 4: Rachel Price, Coach Amy Beckham, Ronda Price.

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JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL: Row 1: Steve Vlahos, Brad Balcerak, Neal Fedak, Cliff Hughes, Justin Gear, David Downs. Row 2: Coach Leo Bonin, Matt Habrych, Jason Miller, William Phillips, John Maretich, Jeff Thames, Stan Glicic, Coach Randy Stelter.



VAR-SI VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL: Row 1: Jason Surdzial, Jason Hac, Row 2: Jovan Blacknell, Eric Culp, Donte Price, Joe Stavzke, Kevin Erny, Cliff Hughes, Steve Vlahos, Ricky Baskin, Row 3: Jim East, Mike Hackett, Will Phillips, Brett Fedak, T.J. Lux, Jammal Davis, Travis Schmidt, Randy Stelter, Leo Bonin, Sheri Iszac



**FR�SHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL** Row 1: Lisa Modgilin, Erin Price, Kelly Preuss, Pam Niksch, Jamie Modrak. Row 2: Diana Gill, Ieesha Hearne, Amie Frey, Nicole Skura, Jennifer Roames, Lisa Renahan, Coach Bill Simpson.



**JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL** Row 1: Deanna Goodman, Wava Riddle, Christy Walsh, Jill Matusik, Kari Forester, Sharon Segevich. Row 2: Jennifer Vulkin, Lena Cole, Jessica Vargas, Becki Lambert, Samantha Dimoff, Valerie Pratscher, Coach Mike Reynolds.



**VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL** Row 1: Deanna Goodman, Carolina Procter, Dawn Fox, Andrea Simpson, Sonya Mitchell. Row 2: Coach Lori Dust, Stephanie Valse, Nakia Clemons, Ronda Price, Rachel Price, Lori Modgilin, Kris Burke, Coach Mike Pritchett.

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FRESHMAN CHEERLEADING: Row 1: Kristina Navarro, Amber Hamilton, Elaine Castro. Row 2: Ashley Dobis, Jessica Reed. Row 3: Nikki Chrisman, Lori Watell, Christin Cirrincione.



JUNIOR VARSITY CHEERLEADING: Row 1: Gina Fastero, Kim Pero, LaToif Hughes, Katy Shapkaroff. Row 2: Barbara Hoagland, Amy Gutierrez, Amber Braden. Row 3: Christy Oh, Jenny Springman.



VARSIITY CHEERLEADING: Row 1: April Pratcher, Rilee Evans, Kristin Lucia, Mandy Olejnik, Samantha Sherwood. Row 2: Bridgette Praschak, Kimberly Anderson, Missy McCory, Angela Kilgore. Row 3: Erica Walla, Aleisha Rodriguez, Megan Wojciechowski.



**GYMNASTICS:** Row 1: Keri Willison, Tina Guzik, Elana Malave, Kelley Jenkins, Alicia DeLeon, Row 2: Lyndi Tegtman, Kristin Lucia, Amy Sopczak, Alisa Zak, Row 3: Diane Roberts, Bill Roberts



**ECCS SWIMMING & DIVING:** Row 1: Ali Santos, Bill Santelik, Adam Rosaves, Eric Randolph, Eric Hanson, Tim Zonka. Row 2: Bryon Angerman, John Rooda, Bob Verbik, Chris Sikich, Richard Brodner, Aaron Maderich, Ryan Brown, Doug Reeves, Ben Jarvis, Sean McCarthy.



**JV WRESTLING:** Row 1: Jeremiah Rodriguez, Kevin English, Gabriel Skofesa, Bobby Burkus, Sergio Medellin, Doug Summer, Roger Sills, Row 2: Davi Aimone, Jason Rivera, Steve Lopez, Eric Beale, Mike Hunke, Joe Mihal, Randy Collins, Row 3: Coach Mark Rosenbalm, Jacques Harris, Chris Celeski, Mike Pierson, David Evans, Nick Jurich, Coach Chris Rossbach.

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VALSIVI WRESTLING: Jennifer Gabriel, Steve Rivera, Jared Tabor, Ted Umphress, Mike Villanueva, Jason Tabor, Nick Marchuk, Jay Lacny, April Pratscher. Row 2: Montel Pace, Bill Summerdan Harvey, Rick Mezo, Jeremy Schwandt, Milan Dzelzlich Stever Guzman, Kristin Galvan. Row 3: Mark Rosebaum, Chris Johnson, Jason Burke, Mike Mikesell, Ryan Francis, Chris Joll.



FRESHMAN BASEBALL: Row 1: Erin Tidis, Edie Romes, Josh Francis, Jordan Pierson, Steve Rivera, Nestor Rivera, Row 2: Coach Pierson, Quenton Allen, Keith Wilson, Sam Berkman, Matt Alin, Mike Curtis, Craig Demaree, Jeff Nelson, Aaron Lorence



JV BASEBALL: Row 1: Greg Mish, Neil Fedak, Joe Giordeou, Mike Stath, Justin Gear, Row 2: Coach Biscan, Phil Martin, Mark Bruner, Doug Vartitune, Bobby Martinez, Tim Little, Mark Mazany, Coach Gulik



**VALLEY FOOTHILLS** Row 1: Rob Moore, Sid Rivera, Marino Stath, Joe Barker, Junior Baldazzo, Rich Deel, Robert Gutierrez, Matt Brown, Clint Henry, Darren Beck, Row 2: Fenton Macke, Brian Schieffer, Brad Schulze, Ryan Miller, Phil Martin, Brett Fedak, Matt Stecker, Adam Creasbaum, Hank Lech, Dave Kamanu, Mike Krutz



**BOYS JV GOLF** Row 1: Matt Wans, James Gill, Matt Sparciano, Denny Frizzell, Jack DeHaven, Mike Anaclerio, Max Hutchison



**BOYS VARSITY GOLF** Row 1: Frank McMullin, Sean McConnell, Erin Jostes, Matt Habrych, Jon Rowe, Eric Culp, Max Hutchinson

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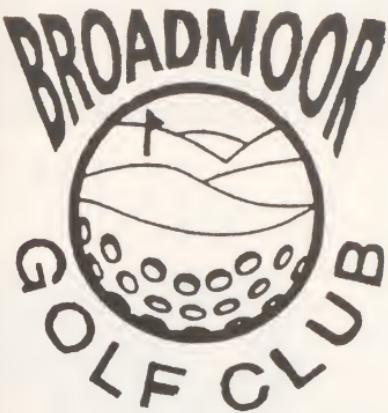
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◆ Carolina Proder, '97, looks behind her before preparing to shoot in the first sectional game. Proder helped to lead the Lady Pirates to a victory in their sectional game against Hebard.

## Athletic Department



COLOR GUARD: ROW 1: Erica Hall, Nadia Venegas, Leeanne Forbes, Julia Zolondz, Angela Demaree. ROW 2: Deanna Price, Jenny Price, Pam Ruschak, Yvonne Escott, Melissa Giorioso, Christina Peterson. ROW 3: Jamie Levitt, Marie Kaminsky, David Greenberg, Missy Stefanski, Judy Jennings, Stacey Shudick

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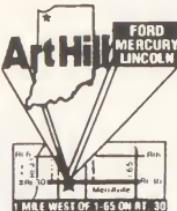
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# STUDENT GOVERNMENT

*Student Government would like to extend an open invitation to any member of the MHS student body to come out and experience exactly what Student Government is all about.*

◆Joining in on the fun, Michelle King, English teacher, goes along on the trip. 50 student government members took down to North Knox for the annual state convention.



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ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB: ROW 1: Jenny Dupлага, Kirsten Olson, Leeanne Forbes, Megan Dixon, ROW 2: Christine Dudziszek, Shan-Hwei Lee, Trisha Swarke, Marie Kaminsky, Stacey Shudick, ROW 3: Kelly Meeks, Nichole Shultz, John Miller, Rebecca Lambert

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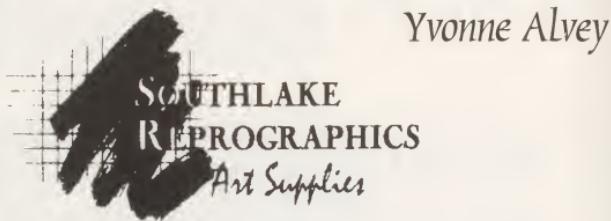
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Manojlovic, Ryan Brown



GIRLS SHOW CHOIR: ROW 1: Karianne Jelenik, Wendy Shotz, Jessica Anderson, Sarah Frink, Megan Reberg, Kim Peru, Becky Jenkins, Mariah Mitchell, ROW 2: Mandy Sopko, Marlyse Dumora, Tanya Hill, Latoy Hughes, Nicole Dennis, Sarah Millsavjevich, Jenny Pozniak, Kelly Thorn, Angie Miller, ROW 3: Ashley Estes, Nicole Moor, Marisol Melendez, Jennifer Vukin, Joanna Harbrecht, Moselle Richards, Nichole Shultz, LaShana Stanley, Kelley Stephens, Christina McCann

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Julia Zelensky

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Dad and Mom  
Carl and Patty

**Congratulations, Thad**



Thad Apree

We're proud of your accomplishments. Best wishes for continued success.

Love,  
Mom and Dad

# Leeanne

Remember your roots . . .  
they will give you  
courage to choose your dreams,  
wisdom to choose your path,  
and wings to fly.

Love,  
Mom and Dad



Leeanne Forbes



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# Angie, You're #1, and we're proud of you.



## Reach for the Stars

It's not easy to capture lightning in a bottle, but you did it!! Enjoy your thunder Angie!!

Congratulations to our Valedictorian,  
daughter, sister, and grand-daughter.

Love,  
*Papa, Mom, Nick, and Nana*

Angie Cerea



# Bernadette,



Learning is a treasure  
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owner everywhere.

Love,  
*Mom and Dad*

Bernadette Virgns

## Congratulations, Jason



Jason Chandler

We're proud of your  
accomplishments. Best wishes.

Love,  
*Mom and Dad*



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NEWSPAPER: ROW 1: Bernetta Williams, Michelle Parker, Claudia Neri, Julia Zolondz, Mandy Richardson, Lena Gilfillan. ROW 2: Kim Onoff, Erika Yambrisak, Jamie McKenney, Laurie Maness, Jean Stanford, Amy Geruska. ROW 3: Eileen Hill, Mark Staniszewski, Judy Jennings, Kelli Moore, Mike Mitrevski. ROW 4: Josh Larson, Pat Farabaugh, TJ Lux, Mike Wisniewski. NOT PICTURED: Kellie Bosenbark, Andy Crane



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# Quill Scroll

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# WMHS:

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Working the cameras, Judy Adams, '95, helps videotape the press conference held by Basketball coach, Jim Fisk for players, TJ Lux and Brett Felak, both '95.



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QUIZ BOWL: ROW 1: Jennifer Dupлага, Kirstin Olson, Lisa Dimitroff, Shan-Hwei Lee, ROW 2: David Greenberg, Jason Adler

# FUTURE EDUCATORS OF AMERICA

FEA would like to congratulate the Class of '95 on their accomplishment, and remind them that high school is only the first of many goals that they can still achieve.



## FEA OFFICERS

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Kristy Trock,  
Nancy Packoski

### Row 2

Christina Gargano,  
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# THE MIRROR

So, finally, Issue 17 has come and gone. Wow, what a year. Even though we may have had our differences sometimes, we seemed to come together as a team. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication throughout the year, even when tensions outside as well as inside the class pressured us. Sometimes, it felt like a miracle had happened when we went to press, but it was all worth it to see the laughs and smiles of the student body. We hope all of you have learned about teamwork, about newspapers, about working together and maybe now you have something to take with you. To next year's staff, we wish you all the best of luck. Only you can make the paper work, not the computers, or Mrs. Stanford, or the facts, but you. Work together and make next year one of the best year. And remember, teamwork is the key to success. Thanks again for everyone's effort. We hope this experience will follow you, and good luck in the future.... Mandy: To all of those pressures of deadlines, stressed out press days, and trips to the Herald. I hope you have gained a lot of experience for next year. I (Erika) was extra hard on you for a purpose, you will succeed!!! Kelli: To my favorite basketball writer and the official communicator to 10th hour. You've saved the day so many times I don't know what I'd do without you. The best of luck next year!! Jamie: A fantastic yearbook Editor and Up-Close Editor (Close-Up) whatever!!!! Everything will be OK monkey boy!! I love you!! Claudia: Hey, why don't you use that rubber cement for pasting? Judy: Our new page editor, you learned very quickly, good luck next year!! Lena: Our little trip to Indy, all the Jashes in your life, trips to Burger King, and millions of great talks 2nd hour. Kim: What great ads!! and don't forget those trips never taken to the tanning beds. Mark: to the best business manager ever. Good luck next year. Laurie: Those ad selling trips to Easy Tone, playing monopoly at Mc Donald's and almost winning. Grunge This!!! A'Rhonda: Thank you for always speaking your mind, you brought so much to the paper this year!! Eileen: You still have to do my (Erika) nails, you can have back all of your poor un-printed commentaries- they were all great!! Bernetta: O.K. Mr. Bergeson's class, and all of your great gripes that didn't help in Mr. B's class. Michelle: O.K. all too quiet, except for our little meeting with Dr. Rapacz in M110. Josh: Go watch the weather and be nice to Lena!! Mike: To our favorite illustrator, thanks for saving the day and filling in space last minute!!! Mike and T.J.: Our abandoned staffers, thank you for putting up with our misunderstandings. Pat: We don't even how to thank you for everything you've done for us. You are greatly appreciated. All of the best of luck at Ball State- you have all the potential to make it big.

And to the entire 94-95 staff: thank you for dealing with our short tempers, hour long lectures, taking all of our frustrations out on you (even if they had nothing to do with the paper). You guys made great punching bags. We will miss all of you dearly.

Sincerely,

Erika Yambrisak, Editor  
Julia Zolondz, Managing Editor

## Good Luck Erika & Julia from the '95 staff



SPELL BOWL: ROW 1: Evelyn Steiner, Kirstin Olson, Jason Adler, ROW 2: Becky Berdine, Shan-Hwei Lee, Nick Gonzalez



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95**



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SUNSHINE SOCIETY: ROW 1: Kristie Gentry, Melissa Lair, Laura Kreft, Anna Herrera. ROW 2: Jamie Childress, Angela Wusik, Kathy Gaines. ROW 3: Lisa VanBerg, Stephanie Cichy, ROW 4: Andrea Rybolt

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# Kim, MAY ALL YOU DREAMS COME TRUE



Kim Henney

We're so very proud  
of you.  
Love,  
Mom and Dan

# Congratulations, SheRai



SheRai Palmer

We're proud of your  
accomplishments.  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

# Congratulations, Tan



Tanja Turner

We're especially proud of your  
excellence. Best wishes  
for a fruitful life.

Love,  
Mom and Dad



Judy Adams

**Judy,**  
Set your dreams high  
and work hard to achieve  
your dreams of success in  
Broadcast Journalism.

Love always,  
Mom and Dad



THESPians; ROW 1: Cara Colon, Deanna Tracy, Christina Peterson, ROW 2: Missy Stelter, Deanna Price, Cassie Solomon, Stephanie Hogan, ROW 3: Kevin Newton, Lori Megyesi, Lori Wotell, Patrick Farabaugh



VOCAL TEENS ROW 1: Lisa Taylor, Robert Heath, Elisabeth Black, Eugene Vivo, Missy McCory, Mark Lengel, ROW 2: Michelle Verbik, Julia Zolondz, Leah Frink, Barb Hoagland, Mandy Olejnik, ROW 3: Larry Murphy, Ronda Price, Andy Belush, Kevin Newton

**There is spirit inside you. Spirit only  
you know how to control your full  
life, and may it be wonderful.**



Athens LaNeigh Hickerson

Dear Roni,

You're unique, just like your name.  
You're independent, headstrong, and  
may your life be successful.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Grandma and Uncle Ervin

**Congratulations, Deidre**



Deidre Elizondo

Wishing you happiness  
and continued success.

Love,

Mom and Dad

# Congratulations, Mijo, Raymond



This is just the beginning, the best  
is yet to come. Remember we'll  
be here for you always. Follow  
your hopes and dreams.

Love,

Mom, Dad and Guys

Raymond Diaz



WINTER GUARD: ROW 1: Erica Hall, Jenny Price, Angela Demaree, Nadia Venegas, Lynn Duplaga. ROW 2: Marie Kaminsky, Melissa Stefanek, Jaime Levitt, Christina Peterson, Elisa Baez. ROW 3: Melissa Glorioso, Judy Jennings, Student Director Jason Jezuit, Michelle King.



YEARBOOK: ROW 1: Kim Anderson, Jennifer Bewley, Nancy Packowski, Irene Halkias, Mandy Richardson, Aarthi Tejuja. ROW 2: Caryn Krysa, Jennifer Randolph, Laurie Maness, Jean Stanford, Kellie Bosenbark. ROW 3: Susan Frenchik, Shannon Bukovac, Candice Parker, Sarah Burt, Deidre Elizondo. ROW 4: Jamie McKenney, Amy Geruska, Pat Farabaugh, Matt Navarro, Tracy Parker

*In remembrance of*

**Jasey Randolph**

**Robert Steiner**

**Paul Hardison**

**Michael Niezgoda**



These people have been in our hearts for so long we never thought they'd go. But now they're in a better place, A place we hope to go. We'll miss you all, we love you all

and keep you in our hearts. We'll think of you always with everything we do, and aspire to new heights all because of you.

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LEFT to RIGHT: Steve Breeden, Heather Steward,  
Vanessa Virgo, & Ian Barnett

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JESSIE BASE

Row 2:  
CAHL SIMS,  
MELISSA STEFANSKI

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# We're proud of you, Patrick



If giving and caring wins success,  
there is no doubt your future will  
shine, and all who know you will  
bask in your success.

Love,  
*Mom, Dad and Nick*

Darick Fordough



## Ryan and Kevin



Ryan Parlock

Kevin Eng

CONGRATULATIONS  
GODZILLA LIVES!

*Big Don and Jody*

## Congratulations, Laurie



Laurie Wojciechowicz

You'll always be  
our little girl.

Love,  
*Mom and Dad*



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*Publishing Company*

**Best Wishes to the  
Class of '95  
From Walsworth  
Representative  
Valerie T. Tanke**

# Congratulations to our Toy:



We wish you all the best.  
A full life, joy and success.  
From a premature baby,  
you've grown to a mature young lady . . .

To climb your first hill,  
with others to climb still.  
We only hope we've prepared you well.

- Good Luck -      Mom and Dad  
LaToya Francis



## John,



John Kudelka

"It's not if you  
win or lose.  
It's how you  
play the game."

Love,  
Mom, Dad and Lisa



Joq Oliver

God bless you.  
We're proud of you.

Love,  
Mom and Dad

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**SADD**

**MCATF**

**FCA**

**Games**

◆ These clubs failed to show up for their scheduled photo.

# THE STUDENT

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It's wonderful having a daughter and a sister who has so much going for her. You make everyone so proud with all that you've achieved. It's so easy to admire someone like you, because of all the special things you do . . . because of the special person you are.

Your family

# Congratulations, Kelly



Kelly Wilters

We're proud of your accomplishments.

Love,  
Mom and Dad



# Jennifer Lynn,

You mean the world to us.  
Be happy in life, and remember your special little angel is watching out for you.

Love,  
Mom and Dad



Jennifer Lynn Randolph

# Congratulations, Erika



Erika Yamborski

May all of life's deadlines come easier to you than ours this year.

Good Luck,

Mrs. S. and the MIRROR Staff

# Dear Missy,



Melissa Stelter

Your beliefs create your reality; believe in your dreams. We are so proud of you!

Love,  
Mom and Dad

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# ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

C O N C L U S I O N

◆ As the months begin to turn into weeks, and weeks to days, the time comes to look back at everything that has been accomplished throughout the year. From the first all sport pep rally to the basketball team making it into the state finals, we begin to really understand that just about...

## ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

◆ Showing her dedication, Connie Lewis, English teacher and mother, helps to decorate a van for the 4th of July parade. Lewis and her son walked down Broadway and to Hidden Lake as a part of the Parade.



◆ Good old Tommy Toyota stood guard outside of Merrillville High School the week before the state basketball finals.

Seniors Ryan Parkett and Kevin Eng get the balloon in an attempt to help boost student moral and support, while wishing the team good luck!





♦ Besides having to deal with the stress of 1st semester finals, the students had to put up with schedule chaos. Due to a miscalculation, confusion, and just plain kids wanting to get out of class, numerous students had more than one lunch hour.

♦ "I Won?"  
Rebekah Justo, '97, stands in amazement as Judy Adams, '95 and Basketball Homecoming MC, announces her as the sophomore class princess.

# Anything is Possible



## Editor's Note

PATRICK FARABAUGH

Where do I even begin? I guess it all started last year, last quarter, last week of school even. That's when I started thinking of possible themes. After tossing out "The Bus Stops Here," and "Making Magic," I fell into a rut. Not until I started section shuffling did I realize that anything is possible. It hit me, "Anything is Possible." That allows really "anything" to happen. It was perfect! My next major step was creating a logo. Mrs. Stanford, I can't believe what we ended up with. No one is going to listen when we say that the diamond was originally our idea. But hey, at least we'll know! After that, everything just seemed to pull itself together. Jennifer (Bewley), I can't thank you enough. You and Nancy both have redefined what a section editor should be. You're the best, that's all there is to it. Irene, what can I say. It took some convincing to get you on staff, but we couldn't have made it without you. I mean that too. Mandy, I got one thing to say-DOLLAR INN. I think they're now holding messages, at least after my 50th time calling there. But to you to I give thanks. You always have made me laugh, and you're a great friend. Jennifer (Randolph) and Angee, you gotta admit, it has been one heck of a year, but look at what we have to show for it. WOODSTOCK Forever!! Isn't that how it goes Jen? Thank you for all your dedication and patience. Shannon, next time look behind you before you go trashing the editor. But don't worry, I just laughed it off. Kellie, I don't know what to say, except THANKS...you're the best, sometimes. Sarah, Laurie (Wojtowicz), Dendrie, and Tracy. The fabulous four. We did it! What you're reading now, the student body will be reading forever. Matt, I can't tell you how grateful I was when you came on. At least I wasn't the only guy all year. Aarthi, so was this worth giving up ceramics? Kim, I'm glad you decided to stay in for the duration. Thanks! Caryn, I never told you, but I admire you. Everything that you've gone through and still have the patience, and spontaneity to continue, let alone excel. You surprised me at how quickly you picked up PageMaker, now about those cross-country scores... Andy, I feel so bad, at least Mandy was in there with you second semester. P.S. Need a tampon? I know a great place to find some! Laurie (Maness), Susan, and Valerie, although it might not seem like you did that much, the support and helping hand accomplished more than you'll ever know. Any what can I say, though our differences may have made things just a little bit harder, we still got through. (And look what we have to show for it!) Hey Candice-Say Cheese! Last but not least there are a very few special people that I need to thank. Jamie, you have been the map that has lead me through all this craziness. God bless you and good luck. Also, don't worry, you're going to do even better. John & Jeanette Bir and everyone else over there at Golas. Its become kinda like a second home to me... wonder why? Finally, Mrs. S-Did I make you proud? Look how far I've come. Remember when I couldn't even grasp the concept of a p-i-c-a. I hope this book will be one that you will always remember. Then there are those I couldn't forget like; Melissa Manojlovic, Janet Anderson, Kelli Moore, Kim Coto, Rosellen Kozel, Erika Yambrisak, Valerie Tanke, Judy Vassallo, Debbie Klippel, and I'm sure there is more, but I just can't think right now. Sorry, I do appreciate all the help and please remember that after all we've been through...ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

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## ◆ 1995 Merrillville ◆

### Anything is Possible

7

Patrick Farabaugh

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Amanda Richardson

Sarah Bu-

Nancy Packow-

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